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Thursday, March 23 - Wednesday, March 29, 2017
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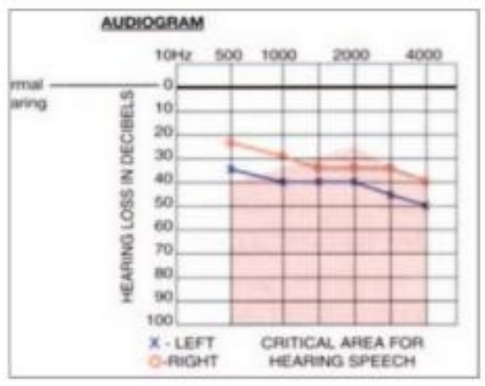

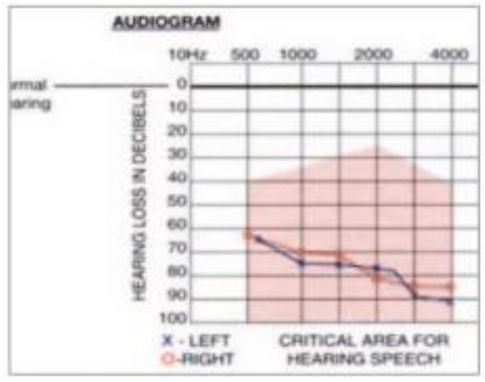

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Watchdog fears some will be left without GP when surgery shuts

Final warning to patients: Find yourself a new doctor

By George Welch

THE thousands of patients still registered at Witney's Deer Park Medical Centre have been issued a final warning to find a new doctor ahead of tomorrow's closure.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire said it was "concerned" for patients at the Edington Square surgery.

It is understood that more than 2,000 have not yet registered with another GP – from tomorrow those people will be without a doctor.

The watchdog's warning comes after the Oxfordshire health overview and scrutiny committee (HOSC) voted that the closure represented a 'substantial change' last month, meaning its fate was left to Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

On Tuesday last week – five weeks after the referral – Mr Hunt confirmed in a letter to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) that he has sought the advice from the independent reconfiguration panel (IRP), who will advise him what services should be included at Deer Park.

But he doesn't expect a response until April 11.

The OCCG had announced the surgery's closure in October last year after it failed to attract any sufficient bids when put out to re-tender.

In the letter to the OCCG, Mr Hunt said: "The option to look again at what services should be provided at or in the immediate vicinity of Deer Park Medical Centre is one to be considered by the IRP.

"I am, however, satisfied that, based on evidence presented to me, the option to continue the existing service expired some months ago, and that it is not now a safe or practical option.

"I have decided not to make any directions at this time, having regard in particular to the potential risk to patient safety, to unpick the current arrangements for handling the inevitable consequences of the ending of the existing contract.

"I would also like you to consider (bearing in mind also the requirements of safety and efficiency) taking no further actions, pending the outcome of the IRP review, that would preclude a future resumption (or re-commissioning) of services at/on/near the existing site."

As a result, Deer Park is to formally close on March 31 as planned but the last appointments are tomorrow. Healthwatch has said patients must transfer as a matter of urgency.

West Oxfordshire District Councillor Liz Leffman has not given up hope,

• Continues on page 3

Make a splash at Swimathon

PART of the 30th anniversary of the world's biggest annual fundraising swim will be hosted in west Oxfordshire next month with Carterton leisure centre opening its doors for Swimathon.

Swimmers can take on one of the individual 1.5k, 2.5k or 5k challenges or can join forces with colleagues, friends or family members for the team 1.5k and 5k events.

The 2017 event will take place over three days from April 7-9 with sessions at Carterton leisure centre on the Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 5pm.

Registration is now open at swimathon.org/participants/register

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Boy stabbed to death named

By Eva Astreinidou

THE young boy found dead in Faringdon last week has been named as five-year-old Tyler Warmington.

Following the death of the boy at Bromsgrove Cottages on Tuesday, a post-mortem examination carried out on Wednesday revealed the cause of death to be stab wounds to the chest.

A 40-year-old woman arrested on suspicion of murder has been released on bail until April 12.

Senior Investigating Officer, Det Ch Insp, Ailsa Kent of Thames Valley Police Major Crime Unit, said: "We continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the child's death.

"You will appreciate that this is a difficult time for his family and we continue to work with them and offer support as the investigation continues."

The force was called to Bromsgrove Cottages at 1.20pm on Tuesday March 14 and found the child dead on arrival.

Senior investigating officer, Det Insp Dave Hubbard of the Major Crime Unit, confirmed a murder investigation was launched and the family were informed.

LPA Commander for South and Vale of White Horse, Supt Rory Freeman, said: "This is a very shocking discovery and I am aware it may have a very direct impact on the community of Faringdon.

"In light of this incident there will be an increased police presence in the area to provide reassurance and we would advise any members of the community affected by this incident to speak to one of the Neighbourhood Policing Team."

Police are still on the scene in Faringdon *Picture: UKNIP*

Nokuthula Ndimande with her colleagues at Warneford Hospital Picture: Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Nurse wins national honour at ceremony

AN Oxfordshire nurse is celebrating after being named mental health nurse of the year.

Nurse Nokuthula Ndimande, who works on a mental health ward, said she was "in shock" when she was awarded the gong at the British Journal of Nursing Awards on March 10 at Shakespeare's Underglobe in London.

Nokuthula has worked at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust for the past 17 years and is a modern matron responsible for other staff at the Warneford Hospital in Oxford.

She received the award as she marked 30 years as a nurse dedicated to caring for others.

Nokuthula said: "I'm still in shock. Being a nurse – that's what I'm proud of. I'm committed to nursing – I couldn't be anything else. I love it so much: every day is never the same."

Over five years, Nokuthula has led research and practice to help reduce the number of times patients return late from leave.

The result is that patient's attitudes to leave have changed, and punctuality has improved by more than 50 per cent.

Her approach has been widely recognised and has now been adopted across the trust, as well as by Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

Consultant Dr Olga-Maria Tsatalou paid tribute to her "exceptional" colleague.

She said: "Nokuthula is one of the most exceptional extraordinary people I've worked with. She has dedicated all her life to helping others. I couldn't think of anyone who could deserve this award more than Noki.

"She is the most modest person I could work with. She is so committed to nursing, so self-sacrificing and committed to patient care and capable of getting things done.

"For Noki to have won this award is one of the most heartening things that could have happened."

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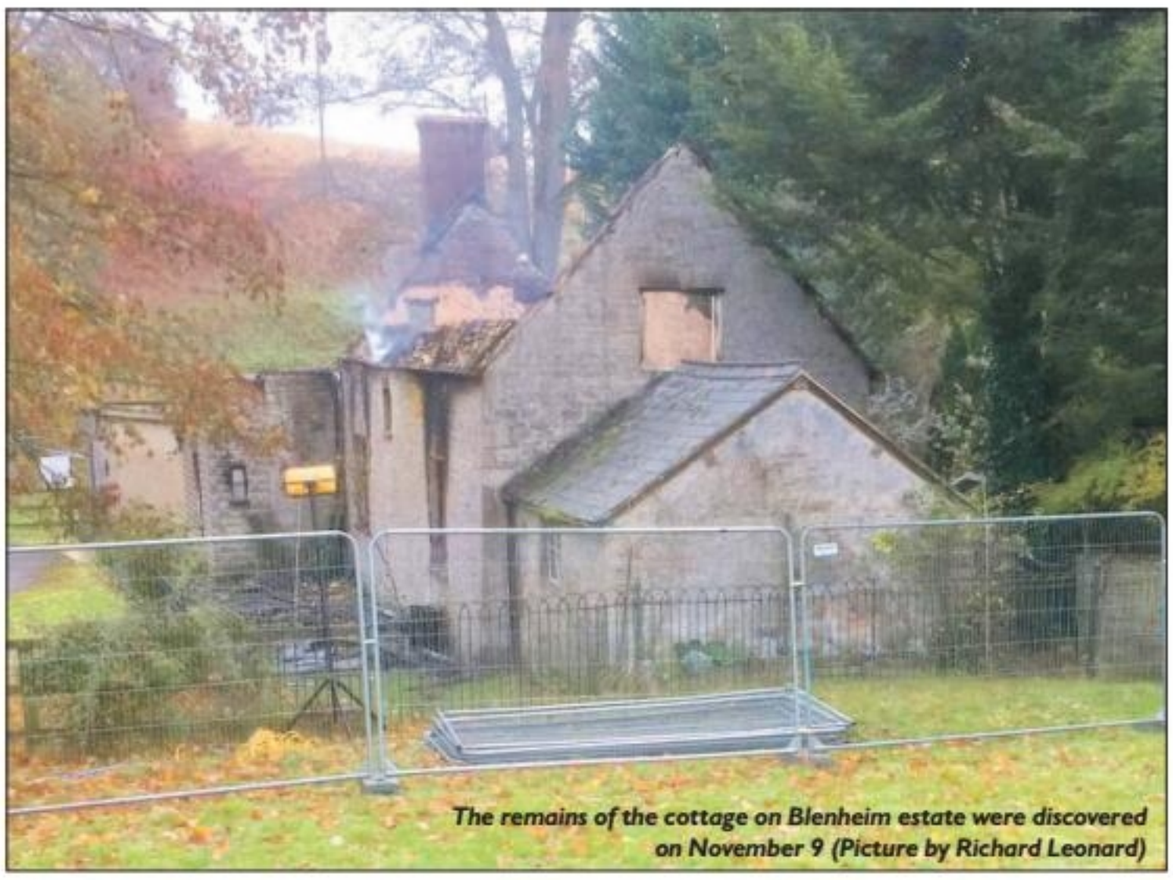
Coroner says cause of death blaze 'may never be known'

By George Welch



The remains of the cottage on Blenheim estate were discovered on November 9 (Picture by Richard Leonard)

THE cause of the deaths of a "polite and cheerful" elderly couple who died in a blaze at their cottage on the Blenheim Palace estate will never be known, a coroner has said.

Donald Thompson, 92, and his wife Dilys, 81, were killed when fire swept through Fisheries Cottage, where they had lived for 48 years, last November.

It is thought the blaze occurred unnoticed in the evening of November 8 before the charred remains of the cottage were discovered at 7.50am the following day by passers-by.

The remains of Donald, a retired gamekeeper, were never found and Dilys, a former horticulturist, was only identified by the serial number of a hip replacement discovered in a downstairs hallway.

Carer Noel Douglas, who offered personal care to Donald, visited the home the day before the fire and described the pair as "polite and cheerful".

He was the last person to see them.

Their daughter, Annie Thompson-Lynch, spoke to Dilys, on the phone at 4pm on Tuesday, November 8 and said her mother "was absolutely fine".

But disaster was to strike shortly afterwards and it wasn't until the following morning a member of garden staff from the palace raised the alarm after the fire had naturally burnt out unnoticed.

There are no properties within sight of the cottage, which lies to the north of the lakes in the grounds and no passing traffic, meaning there were no witnesses.

This made the emergency services' investigation into the inferno more difficult, as a forensic scientist revealed they were "not sure when it started or how long it raged for".

He speculated that it could have been burning for several hours but that it was "not possible to narrow the timescale down at all".

Designated fire investigator at Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Bob Speakman, said: "The fire had been so severe the building had burnt itself out."

The roof and the first floor collapsed in on the ground floor and left the walls in an "unsupported condition", he added, causing investigations to be delayed by two days due to safety concerns.

One possible cause of the fire is that hot embers fell from the ash pan of their Rayburn cooker.

Matthew Neilson, a Blenheim Palace Estate property manager for 10 years, said there were no requests from Donald or Dilys to repair the cooker, as they were required to do if there were faults with their home.

Mr Speakman added there could have been "three or four other causes".

At Oxford Coroner's Court on Thursday last week Darren Salter returned a verdict of 'accidental death' and said they "likely died due to smoke inhalation and/or burns", adding the deaths "must have been a great shock" for the family.

"I have to be really satisfied by a cause but what we are talking about here are possible causes," he said.

Mr Salter will write to Blenheim Palace Estates "to get some reassurances of the safety of vulnerable residents" and to ensure maintenance on the homes that need it is carried out.

"The extent of the damage is such that it is not possible to establish the cause of the fire with certainty but there are a number of possible causes including a hot ember falling from the ash pan of the Rayburn cooker and igniting combustible material or heat conducted through the repaired panel on the Rayburn igniting combustible items," he added.

The couple's pet dog was never identified.

News Bites

Blood probe

WITNEY: Police have launched a 'fear for welfare' investigation after blood was found on a pavement.

Officers were called to Woodford Way car park in Marriots Walk at about 10am on Sunday by a member of the public.

Police are trying to locate a man who appeared to be injured and was seen in the area around 3am.

Call 101 if you have any information on the incident.

Hob fire warning

WITNEY: Fire crews put out a blaze that broke out at a three-storey block of flats after items were left cooking on a hob.

Firefighters were called to reports of a smell of burning at 2.56pm on March 16.

Fire crews from Witney and Bampton attended.

The fire was caused by an item being left on a hob in the kitchen when the occupier went to work.

Crew manager Chris Rowe said: "Luckily nobody was hurt and damage was kept to a minimum."

Healthy advice

WITNEY: Healthwatch Oxfordshire is holding a free event to speak to people about health and care services in the region.

The organisation is to hold a fair which will feature more than 15 voluntary groups.

Join the fair at the Corn Exchange on March 30 from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

'Statement is confusing'

Continued from front page

saying there is a chance the surgery could reopen.

She said: "The statement made by the Secretary of State is very confusing.

"On the one hand he is saying that the surgery must close as planned, but on the other has referred it to the IRP so that they can consider if provision is needed.

"It is possible that the IRP could decide that provision is needed, in which case there might be the possibility of the surgery re-opening.

"I do not think the issue will go away as long as there are new homes being built."

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Councillors vote against plans to transform health

By Eva Astreinidou

OXFORDSHIRE county councillors have voted overwhelmingly against proposals to transform local health services saying they "strongly object" to the changes.

Plans from the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group (OCCG) were yet again put under scrutiny as councillors met to discuss the NHS consultation that is under way.

There were 55 votes against the plans, one abstention and no votes against the objections.

The county council met the Oxfordshire joint health overview and scrutiny committee (HOSC) on Tuesday to further comment on the consultation process and discuss how it is impacting specific areas.

Councillor Yvonne Constance, chairman of the committee, said the councillors involved got 'more and more excited and determined' to state their objections, focusing specifically on the lack of detail around changes to adult social care.

She said HOSC sent a letter on March 13 to the OCCG with recommendations, and there will most likely be another formal letter sent through from yesterday's meeting to continue discussions.

The consultation on the proposed changes ends on April 9.

Cllr Constance said after that date the OCCG then have to collect evidence and will hold a board meeting in May.

She said: "The status quo cannot go on. Too many people who get taken into hospital stay there for too long, and it is difficult to discharge patients. There is also evidence that when elderly people stay in a hospital bed for one day that can reduce their mobility significantly."

Cllr Laura Price, also a member of the committee, said: "I was glad that the council was so unanimous in its concerns about the plans.

"They mirror the concerns of the people I represent who are seeing GP services closing and community hospitals under threat at the same time as being told that there will be more investment in primary care and community services.

"Health and social care are underfunded – government should be addressing this rather than forcing local authorities to continue cutting budgets alongside health being asked to make long-term savings in the face of growing demand."

In February, Oxfordshire County Council called for transparency and further detail about knock-on effects of plans to change primary care.

The county's cabinet said in a meeting that it cannot support the OCCG's plans to deal with the funding gap in the region's NHS, claiming that the consultation, which started on January 16, needed more transparency.

On Tuesday, a spokeswoman for OCCG, said: "We are currently seeking people's views and opinions on the plans for transformation of health services in Oxfordshire. Our consultation will listen to feedback from everyone who gets involved, including councillors."

Colin Dexter on the set of spin-off series Lewis in 2006 with actors Kevin Whately and Laurence Fox

Sadness as Morse author dies

COLIN Dexter, who became as much a part of Oxford as the characters he wrote about, has died aged 86.

The author of the much-loved Inspector Morse series of books passed away at his home in Banbury Road.

His publisher said in a statement on Tuesday: "With immense sadness, MacMillan announces the death of Colin Dexter who died peacefully at his home in Oxford this morning."

The crime fiction writer behind the series starring the famously temperamental detective shot to fame after the publication of his first book – Last Bus to Woodstock – in 1975.

Over the following 14 years Mr Dexter wrote a further 12 novels about the crossword fanatic, opera-loving detective that sold in their millions.

His words were transcribed to the screen in the guise of the hugely popular television series starring John Thaw as the cranky inspector between 1987 and 2000.

Mr Dexter made unaccredited appearances in almost all the episodes.

The Lincolnshire-born author, whose writing also spawned spin-off TV shows Lewis and Endeavour, was given an OBE for services to literature in 2000 and, in 2001, was awarded Freedom of the City in Oxford, where all his Morse stories were set.

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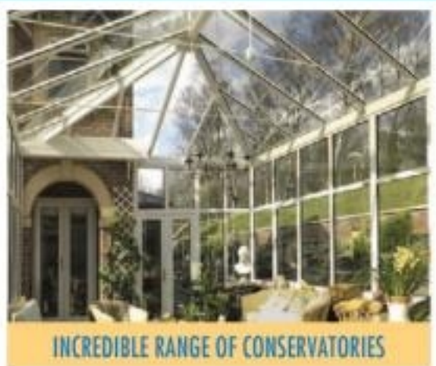
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Joyce has her art set on painting

Joyce Turner from Banbury at the Royal Voluntary Service and Prudential UK First Time for Everything art event at the Cornhill Centre, Banbury

OVER 60s would try their hand at ballroom dancing, woodwork, boxercise, bolero and acting if they were given the chance.

New research by Royal Voluntary Service, the older people's charity, and Prudential UK, reveals 62 per cent in the south east are keen to try a new activity.

But 20 per cent say there aren't enough opportunities for older people in their area.

As a result, RVS has joined up with Prudential to launch First Time for Everything, a year-long campaign giving older people the opportunity to try something new for free.

Local activities will take place at the RVS Cornhill Centre in Banbury throughout 2017, with activities including international dancing, art and an Easter event.

David McCullough, chief executive of RVS, said: "Staying active and socialising are important at any age but when you're older, they are crucial to keeping fit and well.Ageing is no barrier to trying new activities.

"There are significant numbers of older people who are not engaged in social activities and for whom loneliness and inactivity are a real problem. The campaign aims to improve quality of life for older people by providing a range of stimulating new social activities."

Guy Dunlop, of Prudential, said: "We are delighted to be starting a partnership with Royal Voluntary Service. Staying connected with people and learning new skills are key ways we can all age well."

Giant network of cycle routes 'will improve health'

By Eva Astreinidou

CAMPAIGNERS are vowing to break the cycle of poor cycle routes with a potential 366-mile link that could bring £112 million a year in health and journey time benefits and 'remove the cost burden from health services'.

Oxfordshire Cycling Network (OCN) has launched its plan for a strategic cycle network and is seeking support for its scheme, which would link towns, workplaces and transport hubs with safe and direct cycle routes.

According to OCN, the network would bring huge economic and health benefits to Oxfordshire people, while also cutting air pollution.

It said people who cycle live longer, and as a result the route would remove a cost burden from the health services.

Robin Tucker, chair of OCN, said: "Our vision is that people of all abilities can choose to cycle anywhere, feeling safe and comfortable."

Simon Hunt, chair of Cyclox, which promotes cycling in Oxfordshire, said: "All ages, all abilities. These are the four As of best-practice standards for cycling. The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark – and even Cambridge – have shown that this works. Now let's bring similar 4A benefits to Oxfordshire."

Another benefit to the scheme would be shorter journey times, which would reduce congestion on the roads.

Mr Tucker said: "Instead of stop-starting in traffic jams, fretting about where to park, I can bike the five miles from home to Abingdon more quickly and more predictably. Plus, I will have done my exercise for the day."

The new route would have smooth tarmac, would be at least three metres wide and separated from busy roads by a green verge.

In town, cycle tracks would be separated from both pedestrians and motor vehicles and would continue across junctions.

OCN calculates that increasing cycling to 10 per cent of journeys in the county compared to three per cent today is worth £112 million per year in health and journey time benefits.

The network might take 15 or 20 years to build. The scheme comes after the rising wave of development and growth in the county, as potential routes need to be safeguarded, and a benefit for developer plans and future funding.

Now, OCN is trying to get further support for the scheme. Campaigners will meet outside County Hall in Oxford on April 22 to urge candidates to pledge their support.

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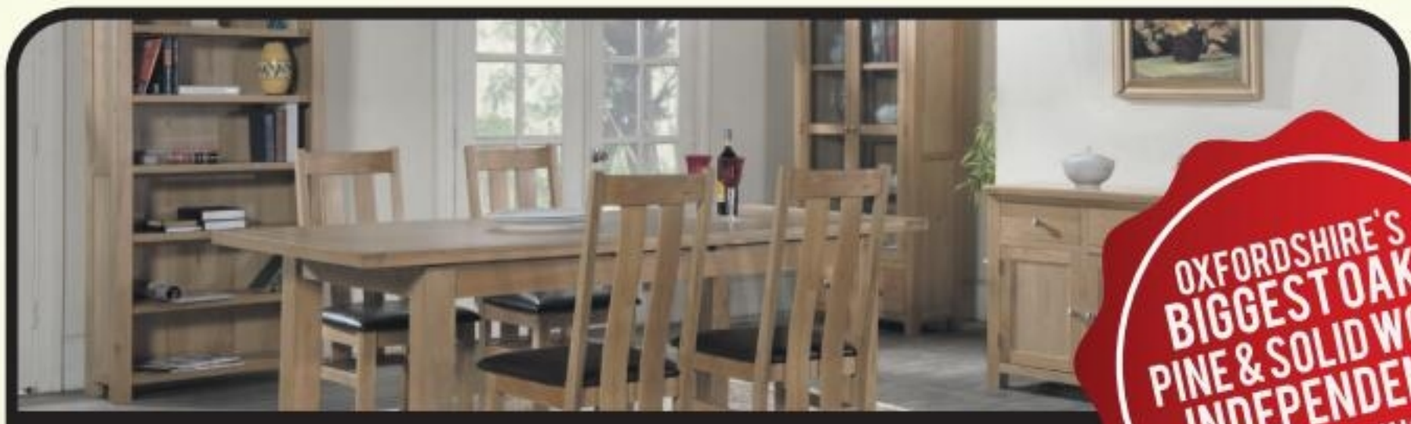

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Treasure hunters are coining it in after finds ruling

By George Welch

A TROVE of 'rare' and 'very exciting' jewellery and coins discovered across Oxfordshire has been confirmed as treasure by an Oxford coroner.

A total of eight finds from across the county since 2015 ranging from the Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age and early Medieval period were considered before Oxford's Coroner's Court on Thursday last week.

Anni Byard, the British Museum's finds liaison officer for Oxfordshire, described the finds as 'very exciting', with her favourite discovery being the 'rare' Middle Bronze Age hoard found in Bix.

Also part of the collection was an early medieval pendant from Cumnor, a medieval gold finger ring from North Leigh and an Iron Age hoard from Checkendon, south Oxfordshire.

Another find included three complete silver coins of Edward the Confessor, dating from 1042-1044 AD, and likely to be part of the same group as a coin found nearby in 2005.

Post medieval gold seal ring from Bampton, 2015 (Picture: St Albans District Council)

Bert Day, a Botley metal detectorist for more than 25 years, stumbled upon the coin in 'pretty fine' condition and expects to receive the most cash out of the three similar coins discovered.

The 68-year-old said he was "really chuffed" to have found it and estimated the penny would be valued at around £1,000.

One of Mr Day's favourite discoveries is a gold Aureus (a gold coin from ancient Rome) about 15 years ago, for which he received about £700.

He added that he hopes to find a posy ring and a gold medieval coin.

More than 30,000 pieces of treasure and artefacts have been found in the county since 2004, with the oldest dating back to 250,000BC.

The items were declared as treasure by coroner Darren Salter and will now be sent to be valued.

Once valued, they will be bought by the British Museum.

Half of the cash goes to the person who found them and the rest goes to the landowner.

Pictures above and below: Oxfordshire County Council

Clockwise from far left, post-medieval gold seal ring from Bampton; Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet stud from Milton-under-Wychwood; complete Roman gold finger ring from Kingston; and middle bronze age hoard from Bix

Picture: The Portable Antiquities Scheme

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Nicola Blackwood, second right, at the John Ratcliffe

MP praises role of science and technology in treating patients

By George Welch

THE role of science and technology was lauded at the John Radcliffe Hospital last week to mark Healthcare Science Week.

Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood met clinicians and patients at the Headington hospital on Friday to discuss the role science and technology plays in healthcare.

Last week was Healthcare Science Week, a national outreach week aiming to raise awareness of the work that scientists do in the NHS.

Over the course of the week Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust hosted a series of events and information stands at each of the John Radcliffe, Nuffield Orthopaedic, and Churchill Hospitals.

This was to offer people the opportunity to speak to representatives from across the sector, including genomics, physics, engineering and immunology.

Ms Blackwood, who is also Minister for Public Health and Innovation, met a trainee clinical scientist at the Churchill to discuss her work in radiotherapy physics and cancer research.

Ms Blackwood said: "Healthcare Science Week is a fantastic initiative. Not only does it highlight the truly life changing research that we can see having a direct impact on patients' lives, but it also helps to inspire the scientific workforce of the future.

"Not everyone immediately realises the impact scientists have on our NHS, so events like these in our local hospitals are crucial to show the role science plays in patient care, diagnosis and treatment."

Cash needed to help deal with child sex abuse

A CHILD protection charity has called for more investment in early intervention for abused children after new figures revealed the number of child sex offences in the Thames Valley area increased by 37 per cent.

According to figures obtained by the NSPCC, the number of child sex offences recorded by Thames Valley Police rose to 2,488 last year - an average of seven a day.

Police recorded crimes against children that included rape, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation – a total of 690 crimes were recorded against children aged 10 and under.

These figures are for TVP's jurisdiction, which includes agencies in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire as well as Oxfordshire.

To cope with the numbers of children coming forward, the NSPCC has called for specialist training for police investigating online child abuse, effective rehabilitation for child sex offenders, and investment in early intervention services to help children recover.

The charity's chief executive Peter Wanless said: "Government must commit funds to early intervention that better help these children who through no fault of their own are enduring so much pain."

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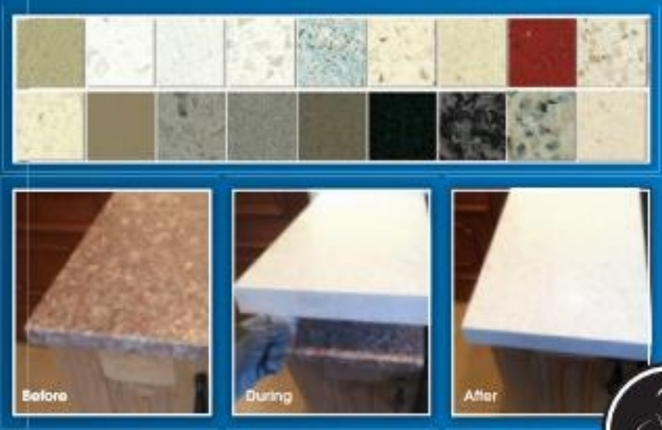

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Charity is stretching to raise more cash for gym equipment

By Eva Astreinidou

THE OXFORD PAPER and Oxfordshire Guardian
Charity of the year 2017
Play2Give

CHANGING and transforming lives is Play2Give's ongoing mission and this year the charity hopes to garner support and raise funds to help equip a rehabilitation gym for those affected by brain injuries.

As P2G marks its 10th year, the charity's £10k in 10 appeal is growing to help fund and equip a neurological physiotherapy gym at Headway Oxfordshire's site in Kennington.

Headway, whose activity and rehabilitation centre was redeveloped last summer after a £200,000 campaign, is now focusing on raising its final £30,000 to equip the gym.

It will be the first of its kind in the voluntary sector in Oxfordshire and has the potential to give others access to its equipment so that the whole community can benefit from specialist custom-made machines specifically for those with disabilities and poor mobility.

P2G has already raised over £4,570 for Headway, but its aim is to have raised £5,000 or more by the end of this year. The timing coincides with five years of support Andy Baker, P2G's founder, has received since he was referred in 2011 due to his brain injuries.

Andy, 28, suffered brain injuries at birth, and sustained a head injury aged eight, after being knocked over in the playground at school.

He also underwent brain surgery aged 12 at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford.

Speaking on behalf of Headway Oxfordshire, the charity's CEO, Jamie Miller, said: "Play2Give and in particular, Andy Baker as an individual, really demonstrates the very essence of the potential of rehabilitation and community integration.

"Andy's incredible positivity and motivation to continue to overcome his own personal challenges medically while at the same time supporting local charities to help others is simply fantastic and amazingly inspiring.

"Everyone at Headway Oxfordshire thanks you and salutes you Andy and the P2G team. Keep up the fantastic work!"

Andy said: "I wouldn't have come on as much in leaps and bounds it has to be said without the fantastic support and care I've received from Headway in the last five years.

"They are absolutely brilliant, and a vital lifeline to people like myself.

"Without Headway, the 450 they support each year simply wouldn't have their lives changed so much, and it's massively important people keep on supporting the charity so that Headway can continue its wonderful work in Oxfordshire.

"Just £10 can make a massive difference and this new gym and the hi-tech equipment it will bring is going to be the best it can be."

To donate to the charity's 10-year appeal, visit tinyurl.com/zksd8xx

Andy Baker presents a cheque at the Headway Christmas party in December for a record amount of money raised in 2016

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New youth centre gets green light

PLANS to demolish a youth centre and replace it with a "contemporary" building have been approved.

The new home of The Hill Youth and Community Centre will be built in Bretch Hill at a cost of £840,000.

The current building in Dover Avenue is in a poor condition and will be demolished.

Plans were approved by Cherwell District Council's planning committee last week.

The council, which is contributing £400,000, chose a modern design for the facility, following a public consultation undertaken in September 2016.

Its hall will be big enough to house a badminton court.

Cllr Colin Clarke, Cherwell's lead member for planning, said: "The new community centre will be of great benefit to residents as it has been designed to meet their needs.

"I am very glad the community will have the big hall back since they have been prevented from using the existing one for four years due to its condition.

"We deliberately chose to build the community centre from scratch because the existing one is too damaged and the refurbishment would not have been cost effective.

"Of course, it will take more time to deliver a brand new building but this is going to be a valuable long-term investment in the community.

"The council has committed to a programme of improving and rebuilding facilities like this because we believe in supporting active lifestyles."

Councillors pictured outside the current building

Mum allows birth horror story to be used in Horton campaign

By Samantha McGregor

A MUM is using her story to help campaigners fight to retain doctor-led maternity services at a Banbury hospital.

In a one-minute YouTube video Clementine's Story, Sophie Hammond tells how her low risk pregnancy very quickly turned into a life or death situation.

She has allowed group Keep the Horton General to use her story to support their campaign.

Oxford University NHS Foundation Trust (OUHFT) suspended services last October over concerns about patient safety after problems recruiting "middle-grade" doctors.

Nine should be in post to run the service safely, but so far the trust has not recruited enough.

The suspension has remained in place following two successive quarterly reviews.

In the video Sophie, who lives in Bodicote, said: "I had a healthy low risk pregnancy and a straightforward labour. However, after Clemmie was delivered things went badly wrong.

"I tore a major blood vessel and lost two litres of blood in the space of five minutes.

"I was rushed into theatre to be stitched up and to have a blood transfusion.

"A consultant said at the time if it hadn't been for the swift action of the team and the presence of doctors on site he dreaded to think what the outcome would have been.

"If I'd had to go to Oxford I'm almost certain I would have died in the back of an ambulance."

KTHG chairman Keith Strangwood said he hoped the video would help people "understand the reality of the cynical downgrading of the Horton".

He said: "This has been systematic and continuous since the independent reconfiguration panel decreed in 2008 that the OUH should 'change to ensure its services remain appropriate, safe and sustainable'."

• *View the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgrMcU-EMx4&feature=youtu.be*

News Bites

'Yes' to eco town

BICESTER: Plans to start work on a second phase of Bicester's eco town at Himley Farm have been approved.

The development will include 1,700 homes, a retirement village, employment space, social and community facilities and a new primary school.

Cllr Colin Clarke, Cherwell District Council's lead member for planning, said: "The village will put sustainable transport at the heart of its infrastructure, making it easier for people to live healthier lifestyles."

Up for awards

OXFORD: A museum and a volunteer in the city have been recognised in the yearly Museums + Heritage Awards.

Now in their 14th year, nominations have gone to Aaron Lee, a Museum of Oxford volunteer and the Pitt Rivers Museum and the University of Oxford for their recent 'Out in Oxford' exhibition.

The awards have previously helped to secure funding and support from key stakeholders.

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'Amazing' Ava's Crufts glory

IT PROVED to be a day to remember for an Oxfordshire schoolgirl after her three-year-old Parson Russell terrier Ava put her best paw forward to help her claim a prestigious prize at Crufts 2017.

Ava was one of 22,000 happy, healthy dogs at Birmingham's NEC for the world's largest show on March 9, competing alongside Thame owner Evie Tinegate in the Young Kennel Club's handling competition for 12 to 16-year-olds and finishing third.

Presented by the Kennel Club, this year's Crufts marked the 126th edition of the show, which attracts dogs and owners from all over the world as well as thousands of visitors over the course of the four days.

After enjoying their own moment in the spotlight, Bloxham School pupil Evie could not be more delighted with Ava's performance in the West Midlands after they walked away with third place.

"I feel great because I never expected this at all," said 13-year-old Evie.

"It was a really tough class and there were loads of good handlers involved, so being there with less experience makes this feel even better.

"Ava is really hard to describe but she's amazing when you need her to be."

Evie Tinegate from Thame and her Parson Russell terrier Ava, far right, won third at Crufts

Dog thrown away in field 'like rubbish'

A DEAD dog was found wrapped in a black bin bag and dumped in a field in Banbury.

The RSPCA was called on Sunday morning by a member of the public who discovered the body of a black and tan terrier-type dog dumped in a field off Ells Lane. He was first seen on March 14.

RSPCA inspector Rachel Smith, who is investigating, said: "The little Jack Russell terrier-cross had a large patch of fur loss and some scabs on his neck but, other than that, seemed to be in a reasonable condition so it's not clear how or why he had died.

"It's not clear whether the dog has died in suspicious circumstances or whether he's died of natural causes and his body has been dumped but I'd like to find out more about the circumstances surrounding his death."

The microchip information has him registered as a six-year-old called 'Handsome' but the contact details on the database are out-of-date.

Insp Smith added: "I'd be really interested to know where this little dog has come from and how he ended up being thrown away in a black bin bag like rubbish."

If you have any information call the appeal line on 0300 123 8018.

Who would you name as an unsung town hero?

OXFORD City Council wants residents to name their unsung heroes in the volunteering community who 'make a difference to the lives of so many'.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan, is inviting nominations for the annual Certificate of Honour Awards that celebrates the invaluable work of Oxford's voluntary community.

Cllr Altaf-Khan, said: "Volunteers are critical to the wellbeing of our city and play a major role in achieving the positive aims we all hold for our families, friends and wider community.

"From voluntary participation in local activities to personal care of family, friends or neighbours, the act of volunteering stimulates a sense of community in a city that is constantly growing and diversifying."

All nominations will be considered by a panel of independent judges. Nominees do not have to live in Oxford but the service and support they provide must be within the city.

The closing date is 4pm on Wednesday, April 12. This year's winners will be invited to an awards ceremony hosted by the Lord Mayor.

County's war memorials will go on centenary protection list

By Eva Astreinidou

War memorials in Abingdon town centre and, inset right, Bloxham

OXFORDSHIRE war memorials have been included in Historic England's pledge to protect 2,500 memorials by 2018, to mark the centenary of the First World War.

In commemorating the important date, the year 2018 will see the Headington Quarry, New Marston, Old Marston, Oxford, and Abingdon war memorials listed under the protection of Historic England.

Built by communities in the years following the conflict, these memorials are a reminder of the sacrifices and loss the First World War brought about.

The protection ensures the memorials are in good condition and properly recognised by listings.

Karen Bradley, Culture Secretary, who leads for the Government on First World War commemorations, said: "The First World War was of utmost importance and significance in our country's history.

"Nearly 900,000 Britons lost their lives and the centenary commemorations provide an opportunity to pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much.

"Local war memorials are important reminders of the bravery of those who served and integral to honouring their memory.

"I encourage everyone to visit their local war memorial to learn more about their community's connections to this pivotal point in our history."

Roger Bowdler, Director of Listing at Historic England, said: "Researching, recording and recommending up to 2,500 more war memorials for listing over the next five years is a major task but one that Historic England is proud to undertake.

"These memorials will gain a place on the National Heritage List for England to tell the story of this country's sacrifice and struggle."

This comes as part of a wider partnership between Historic England and the War Memorials Trust, Civic Voice and the Imperial War Museums to help communities discover, care for and conserve their local war memorials.

The programme is providing up to £2million in grants for war memorial repair and conservation and hundreds of workshops to teach people how to record the memorials and put them forward for listing.

The organisation's goal is to see as many war memorials as possible in a fitting condition for the centenary, so that they 'remain cherished local landmarks for generations to come'.

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Volunteers take a breather during a previous tidy-up

Litter pick 'great way to get exercise'

RESIDENTS are being urged to join Saturday's Thame Tidy Up to clean the area for the spring.

People can collect all the equipment they need including litter pickers, high visibility jackets and recycling and rubbish bags from a stall outside the Town Hall.

Organisers say the event is "a great excuse to get out in the fresh air, get some exercise and do something useful".

Rosemary Bryant, organiser on behalf of 21st Century Thame, said: "We need as many people as possible to come along to the Town Hall on Saturday and help us tidy Thame and Moreton.

"Anyone can join in – young or old, individuals or groups, and families are welcome. Just come along any time between 10am and 3pm and get litter-picking.

"Thame is a delightful place to live and we need to feel proud of our place by keeping it litter-free."

For those taking part there will be eight drop-off points around the town and the fire service will help with collecting heavy items.

Traffic fear as work begins on Waitrose

By Samantha McGregor

How the Waitrose at Banbury will look

WORK to build a new supermarket in Banbury started this week and the store is expected to be open by Christmas.

Waitrose said construction began on Monday at the 1.44 hectare site on surplus land next to the Jacobs Douwe Egberts factory in Southam Road.

It comes after developer Barwood Capital and Waitrose finalised the construction programme.

Banbury councillors have welcomed the development, but one raised concerns about an increase in traffic on Southam Road due to the supermarket.

The single-storey store will have a 27,500sq ft shop floor area and 220 car parking spaces.

Foundations are due to be laid this spring and the frame and roof are expected to built in July.

Waitrose says the new store will create 140 job and recruitment will start this summer.

Waitrose director of property Nigel Keen said: "We are now in a position to get started and are that bit closer to realising our long-standing ambition to have a branch in Banbury.

"It takes time to put together projects like this, but it's important we get everything right so we can deliver a quality food shop, which can make a positive contribution towards the town's future."

Plans for the store were approved by Cherwell District Council in November 2015.

At the time concerns were raised due to its out-of-town location and fears it would be detrimental to town centre trade.

Labour group leader Cllr Sean Woodcock said: "I think it is great for Banbury that Waitrose want to come here and provide greater choice to shoppers. I am, though, worried about traffic on the Southam Road, which is already a choke point, and would like reassurances about how this will be managed."

Cllr Kieron Mallon, Banbury Town Council leader, said: "The fact that a business with the reputation of Waitrose has the confidence to open a store on the edge of our town centre has to be great news for the town and its rural hinterland.

"This will, we hope, bring in new shoppers to Banbury who traditionally would have gone elsewhere, who will explore what else Banbury has to offer."

News Bites

Bubbly evening

THAME: A 'Bubbles, Boards and Creams' evening raised £600 for Thame mayor Linda Emery's charities.

Held in The Stables at The James Figg pub, it featured wine, champagne and ice cream.

This year the mayor is fundraising for two charities – The Red Kite Children's Centre and Thame Youth.

Tea with police

THAME: Residents who have concerns about crime are invited to go along to the police community café on April 26.

Organised by the Thame and Wheatley Neighbourhood Policing Team, the event takes place at Thame Town Hall from 6pm to 8pm and gives people a chance to meet local police and raise any concerns.

Splashing out

THAME: Swimming facilities at Thame Leisure Centre are set to get a £353,000 upgrade.

South Oxfordshire District Council said work will start next month to build new cubicles and improve the changing and shower area at the centre.

It is expected to take 14 weeks to complete, but facilities will remain open.

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Competition

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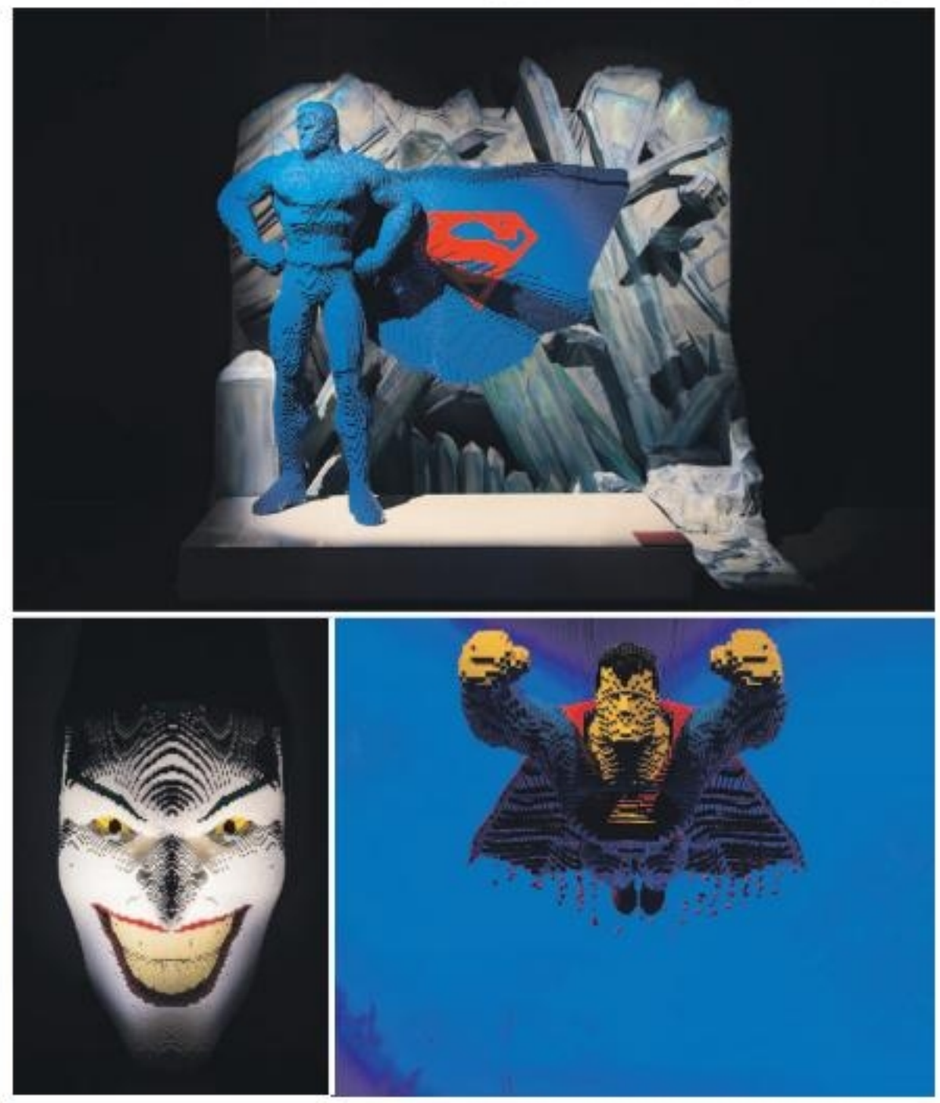

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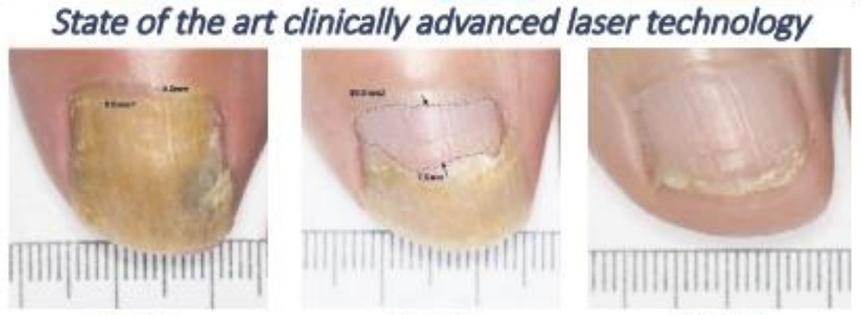

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Quick Clues Across

1 Exciting attention (11)
9 Conclusion (3)
10 Manner of performance (9)
11 Sailing vessel (5)
13 Empty (7)
14 Counting frame (6)
16 Strain (6)
18 Take by surprise (7)
19 Squander (5)
20 Ascribe (9)
21 Donkey (3)
22 Long-bodied insects (11)

Quick Clues Down

2 Bend head quickly (3)
3 Happening (5)
4 Corrects (6)
5 Brass instrument (7)
6 Silent (9)
7 January 1st (3,5,3)
8 Scatter here and there (11)
12 Distinctive quality (9)
15 Unfastening
17 Go back (6)
19 Circular revolving frame (5)
21 Imitate (3)

Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Let Aunty vie with the change-over of any contingency (11)
9 3 down's cold centre (3)
10 Bail out in the box to check the measurements (9)
11 Ore who pulls a lot of weight can rise to a great height (5)
13 Useful way of starting a game (7)
14 Mistakes made by the traitor in time (6)
16 Sword for the god on the jetty (6)
18 No share of the speech (7)
19 Part of joint returned to group (5)
20 Praising the former tax on badly brewed gin? (9)
21 Stand as candidate while the show is on? (3)
22 Now for a birthday? (7,4)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Compete in the review (3)
3 It is more agreeable to pull back about a hundred (5)
4 Except that the world assembly takes a smaller part (6)
5 A pound can make Spain and Portugal into an African country (7)
6 No, it comes back, and I move suddenly up for the custom, (9)
7 Now tell me it is rewritten as a classic story (6,5)
8 Going further into the assessment, after putting up half a poem for ten to back (11)
12 Fight, rave, or be the one to give a guarantee (9)
15 Toys with the dessert? (7)
17 An Asian and I in a mix-up (6)
19 Time for a sound lady's champion (5)
21 Drive home the animal (3)

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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

		7	6		2			4
	2		7	4		3		9
5		8	9			6		
	6		4	3			8	
	1	5				4	3	
8	3			6	5		7	
		2			4	5		8
4		3		8	6			
6			5		1	2		

3		5		6		8		7
	2		4		5		1	
	9						4	
2				4				9
			1		6			
9				8				3
	8						9	
	6		7		8		3	
5		4		1		7		2

	6				2		9	8
2					6	5		
7		1					6	
8			2					
		4				3		
					3			9
	5					1		6
		2	8					4
4	9		5				7	

This week's solutions

3	7	2	1	6	5	8	9	4
6	2	8	4	9	5	7	1	3
1	9	5	3	7	8	2	4	6
2	3	7	5	4	1	6	8	9
4	5	1	6	8	9	3	2	7
9	8	6	7	2	3	4	5	1
7	6	3	9	1	4	5	2	8
8	4	9	2	5	7	1	3	6
5	1	4	8	3	6	9	7	2

5	3	4	9	6	1	8	2	7
1	6	9	7	2	8	5	3	4
7	8	2	3	5	4	6	9	1
9	1	6	2	8	7	4	5	3
4	5	3	1	9	6	2	7	8
2	7	8	5	4	3	1	6	9
6	9	1	8	7	2	3	4	5
8	2	7	4	3	5	9	1	6
3	4	5	9	6	1	8	2	7

3	4	2	1	7	5	6	8	9
8	6	7	9	2	4	3	5	1
5	9	1	3	6	8	2	7	4
6	2	8	7	4	9	1	3	5
9	3	4	6	5	2	7	1	8
7	1	5	8	3	6	9	4	2
2	7	9	4	1	3	5	6	8
1	5	3	2	8	7	4	9	6
4	8	6	5	9	1	7	2	3

Quick Crossword

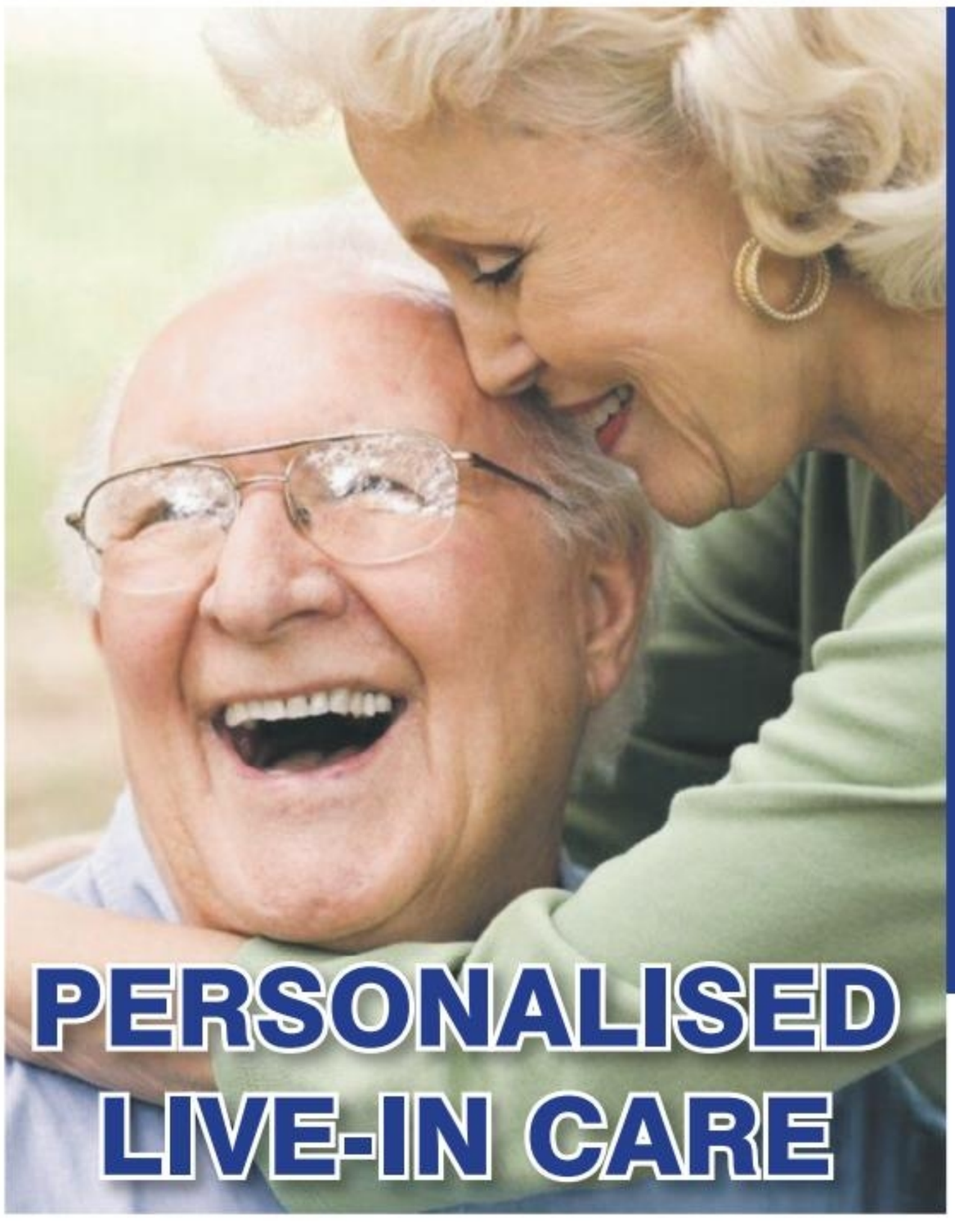
Across: 1 Interesting 9 End 10 Execution 11 Yacht 13 Deplete 14 Abacus 16 Stress 18 Starlie 19 Waste 20 Attribute 21 Ass 22 Dragonflies

Down: 2 Nod Event 4 Emends 5 Trumpet 6 Noiseless 7 New Year's Day 8 Intersperse 12 Character 15 Untying 17 Return 19 Wheel 21 Ape

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Eventually 9 Ice 10 Calibrate 11 Tower 13 Service 14 Errata 16 Rapier 18 Oration 19 None! 20 Extolling 21 Run 22 Present time

Down: 2 Vie 3 Nicer 4 Unless 5 Liberia 6 Tradition 7 Little Women 8 Penetrating 12 Warrantor 15 Trifles 17 Indian 19 Night 21 Ram



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HOT AND COLD REFRESHMENTS

Saturday March 25th

BBC1

Casualty, 8.25pm

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Mary Berry Everyday** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **12.30 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Bargain Hunt** (S) **2.15 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death** (S)(R) **3.45 FILM Brave (2012) (PG)** (S) **5.10 Who Dares Wins** (S) **5.50 BBC News** (S) **6.00 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.10 Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) **6.55 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief** (S)

DAYTIME

7

8

8.25 Casualty Robyn's newborn daughter faces is rushed into NICU following her premature birth. (S)

9

9.15 All Round to Mrs Brown's New series. Brendan O'Carroll's irrepressible Agnes Brown hosts a weekend chat show. (S)

10

10.15 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.35 FILM Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007) (12) Fantasy adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp. (S)

11

AFTER 12

2.10 (BST) Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **2.15** BBC News (S)

BBC2

When Lynn Barber Met Phyllida Barlow, 7.30pm

7.05 FILM A Damsel in Distress (1937) (U) (S) **8.40 FILM Hue and Cry (1947) (U)** (S) **10.00 Growing Up Wild: Natural World** (S)(R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **12.00 Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry** (S)(R) **1.00 War Films, Talking Pictures** (S)(R) **1.45 FILM The Wooden Horse (1950) (U)** (S) **3.25 Flog It!** (S)(R) **4.00 University Challenge** (S)(R) **4.30 Only Connect** (S)(R) **5.00 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **5.30 Puerto Rico – Island of Enchantment: Natural World** (S)(R) **6.30 Wild Ireland: The Edge of the World** (S)(R)

7.30 When Lynn Barber Met Phyllida Barlow The veteran journalist interviews sculptor and art teacher Phyllida Barlow. (S)

8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands Paul Murton crosses Scapa Flow. (S)
8.30 Dad's Army An enemy aircraft ditches in a reservoir. (S)(R)

9.00 Paula Rego: Secrets and Stories Nick Willing compiles an intimate portrait of his mother, the painter Paula Rego, using interviews and archived home video. (S)

10.30 QI XL Extended edition. With Jo Brand, Bill Bailey, James Acaster. (S)

11.15 FILM The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012) (15) Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Liev Schreiber. (S)

2.15 FILM (BST) Albatross (2011) (15) Drama, starring Jessica Brown Findlay. (S) **3.40** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway, 7pm

6.00 CITV 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Alphabetical** (S)(R) **10.30 FILM Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) (PG)** (S) **12.15 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.25 FILM Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) (U)** (S) **2.10 All Star Family Fortunes** (S)(R) **3.00 Bargain Shop Wars** (S)(R) **3.30 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **4.30 The Chase** (S)(R) **5.25 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.40 ITV News** (S) **6.00 You've Been Framed! Unlimited** (S)

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway The entertainer duo try their hands at archery, and Take That join the pair for a special End of the Show Show. (S)

8.30 The Voice UK The eight semi-finalists face another round of gruelling performances. (S)

10.20 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.35 Lethal Weapon A string of neighbourhood burglaries hits close to home for Murtaugh. Clayne Crawford and Damon Wayans star. (S)(R)

11.35 The Chase Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (S)(R)

12.30 Jackpot247 4.00 (BST) Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **4.50 ITV** Nightscreen

Channel 4

Escape to the Chateau, 7pm

6.40 Mobil 1 The Grid (S) **7.10 British Rally Championship** (S) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **10.55 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.30 Extreme Food** (S) **1.00 Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights** (S) **2.50 The Restoration Man** (S)(R) **3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.35 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **5.35 Grand Designs** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 Escape to the Chateau Dick and Angel only have a few weeks to prepare for their wedding. Last in the series. (S)(R)

8.00 FILM The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011) (12) Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith and Dev Patel. (S)

10.25 FILM Robin Hood (2010) (12) An archer returning from the crusades faces a plot by a traitorous knight. Medieval adventure, with Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett. (S)

2.00 (BST) Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) **2.50** The Last Leg (S)(R) **3.50** Hollyoaks (S)

Channel 5

NCIS, 8pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **10.30 Access** Showbiz news and gossip. (S) **10.35 On Benefits: Life on the Dole** Two couples planning the perfect wedding on benefits. (S)(R) **11.30 On Benefits: Life on the Dole** (S)(R) **12.30 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R) **6.25 NCIS** The first instalment of a two-part crossover with NCIS: New Orleans. (S)(R)

7.10 NCIS: New Orleans The final part of a crossover with the original NCIS series. (S)(R)

8.00 NCIS A seaman's murder is linked to a resurgent human trafficking ring. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 When Celebrity Goes Horribly Wrong Contributors recall the popstars, actors, comedians and even astronauts embroiled in everything from sex scandals to televised meltdowns. (S)

11.55 Access Showbiz news and gossip. (S)

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ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **6.10** Emmerdale **8.35** Coronation Street **10.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **11.35** Britain's Got Talent: Ant and Dec's Top 10 Moments **12.35** Take Me Out **1.50** FILM: Rumour Has It (2005) (12) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** FILM: Rumour Has It (2005) (12) Concluded. **3.55** Mr Bean **5.05** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell. **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Concluded. **7.00** Scorpion **8.00** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Concluded. **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** Celebrity Juice Live **11.35** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **2.00** (BST) American Dad! **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Judge Judy **6.20** On the Buses **6.45** Murder, She Wrote **9.30** FILM: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) (U) **10.30** FYI Daily **10.35** FILM: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) (U) **11.35** Inspector Morse **1.50** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **3.35** Rosemary & Thyme **4.40** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Rising Damp Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **2.05** (BST) ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **8.00** Timewatch: The Last Days of First World War **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.15** Blondie: One Way or Another **2.30** (BST) Blondie's New York and the Making of Parallel Lines **3.20** Big in America: British Hits in the USA **4.20** Sounds of the Eighties **4.50** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Melissa & Joey **6.50** Made in Chelsea **7.55** Black-ish **8.25** Young & Hungry **9.20** FILM: Space Chimps (2008) (U) **11.00** The Goldbergs **12.00** Black-ish **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** FILM: Addams Family Values (1993) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia. **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Prometheus (2012) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Noomi Rapace. **11.30** Gogglebox **12.35** Bizarre ER **2.35** (BST) Rude Tube **3.35** The Goldbergs **4.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.45** Melissa & Joey **5.05** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Come Dine with Me **11.30** Location, Location, Location **12.35** Coast vs Country **1.35** Rivers with Jeremy Paxman **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Finding Babylon's Hanging Garden – Secret History **9.00** 9/11: The Firemen's Story **10.05** 9/11: The Lost Tapes **11.10** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** (BST) Father Ted **2.45** Father Ted **3.20** Food Unwrapped **3.50** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Master of the World (1961) (PG) **1.00** Paddington (2014) (PG) **2.50** City of Ember (2008) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Saoirse Ronan. **4.40** Brewster's Millions (1985) (PG) Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and John Candy. **6.45** School of Rock (2003) (PG) Comedy, starring Jack Black. **9.00** This Is England (2006) (18) Drama set in the 1980s, starring Thomas Turgoose. **11.05** Dead Man's Shoes (2004) (18) Psychological thriller, starring Paddy Considine. **12.45** Daredevil (2003) (15) **3.55** (BST) Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Deadly 60 **10.00** Top Gear **12.00** Motorway Cops **2.00** QI XL **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Top Gear India Special **7.00** Not Going Out **9.00** Gavin & Stacey **11.00** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **12.00** QI XL **2.00** (BST) QI XL **3.00** Parks and Recreation **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Secret Army **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Secret Army **5.00** The Mrs Bradley Mysteries **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Maisie Raine **9.00** Taggart **11.00** Waking the Dead **2.10** (BST) Sharpe **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Are You Smarter Than a 10 Year Old? **7.00** Monkey Business **8.00** Game Changers **8.30** Premier League World **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.45** Football Gold **12.00** The F1 Show **12.30** Wild Things **1.30** Portrait Artist of the Year 2017 **2.30** Futurama **4.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Flash **7.30** MacGyver **8.30** FILM: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) (U) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. **10.55** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.50** A League of Their Own **12.50** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **2.50** (BST) DC's Legends of Tomorrow **3.40** Police 10/7

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** David Attenborough's Natural History Museum Alive **1.30** Flying Monsters with David Attenborough **3.00** Making David Attenborough's Flying Monsters **4.00** Without a Trace **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.20** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **11.55** Real Time with Bill Maher **2.05** (BST) High Maintenance **2.45** Banshee **3.50** Veep **5.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

W SKY: 109

6.10 Don't Tell the Bride USA **7.00** The Bill **12.00** Peggy Mitchell: Queen of the Vic **12.30** EastEnders **3.00** FILM: Oliver! (1968) (U) Musical, starring Ron Moody. **6.00** My Family **8.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Olly Murs **9.00** FILM: Get Smart (2008) (12) Spy comedy, starring Steve Carell. **11.15** Grimm **12.15** Outnumbered **12.55** The Musketeers **3.00** (BST) Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **8.00** As Time Goes By **8.40** dinnerladies **10.00** Last of the Summer Wine **12.00** Boomers **12.40** Porridge **7.10** FILM: Look Who's Talking (1989) (12) A single mother is ditched by her lover and sets out to find a surrogate father. Comedy, starring Kirstie Alley. **9.00** Peep Show **11.05** Bottom **11.45** Filthy, Rich and Catflap **12.25** Dylan Moran: Aim Low **3.00** (BST) Nathan Barley **3.30** Nighty Night **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Live Formula 1. **8.45** Football Gold **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.45** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **12.10** The Fantasy Football Club **1.10** Crolla: The Million Dollar Story **1.25** Crolla v Linares: The Tactics **1.40** Live Top 14 Rugby Union. **3.35** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **3.55** Crolla: The Million Dollar Story **4.10** Crolla v Linares: The Tactics **4.25** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **4.55** Live International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers. Sweden v Belarus (kick-off 5.00pm). **7.00** Live Fight Night. Jorge Linares v Anthony Crolla. **11.30** Premier League Legends **12.00** Premier League 100 Club **2.00** (BST) Sky Sports Boxing Gold **2.30** Premier League Years **4.30** Live Formula 1. **5.00** Live Formula 1. **5.30** Live Formula 1.

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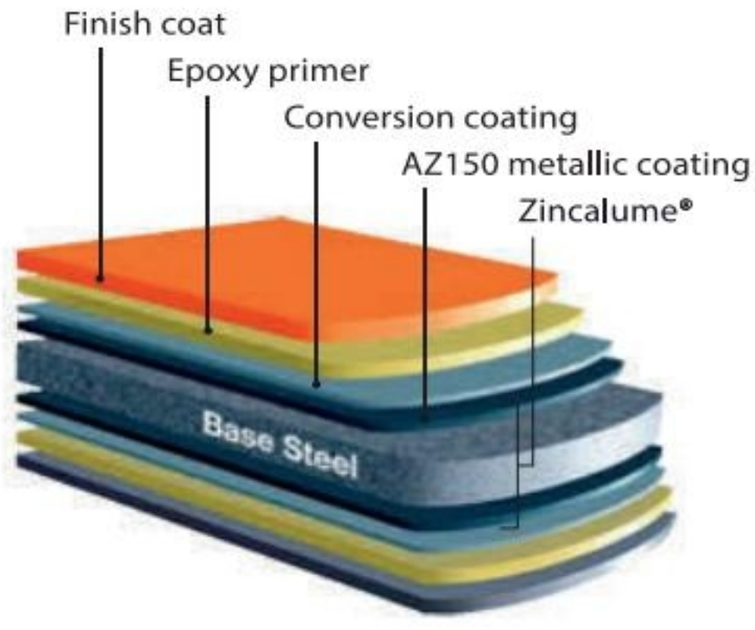

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Sunday March 26th

DAYTIME

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Flog It!** (S)(R) **2.15 Countryfile Spring Diaries** (S)(R) **3.00 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.00 Songs of Praise** (S) **4.35 Shop Well for Less?** (S)(R) **5.35 The Best of Red Nose Day** (S) **6.35 BBC News** (S) **6.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)

7

7.00 Countryfile Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore Denbighshire, meeting one of the country's most successful sheep farmers. (S)

8

8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents the show from Burton Constable Hall near Hull. (S)

9

9.00 Line of Duty New series. A detective is determined to bring a serial killer to justice and prove herself to her superiors – but her efforts may have led to a miscarriage of justice. (S)

10

10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
10.30 FILM Iron Man 3 (2013) (12) Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr. (S)

11

AFTER 12

12.30 The Celebrity Apprentice USA (S) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.55** BBC News (S)

BBC2

8.15 Gardeners' World (S)(R) **8.45 Countryfile** (S)(R) **9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.15 Nigel Slater: Eating Together** (S)(R) **11.45 Simply Nigella** (S)(R) **12.15 FILM The Importance of Being Earnest (1952) (U)** (S) **1.45 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman** (S)(R) **2.15 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **3.00 The House That £100K Built** (S)(R) **4.00 Back to the Land with Kate Humble** (S)(R) **5.00 Athletics** (S) **6.00 Inside the Factory: Bicycles** (S)(R)

7.00 Robot Wars Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the next stage of the contest. (S)

8.00 Top Gear Chris Harris and Matt LeBlanc compete in a race across the Arabian peninsula. (S)

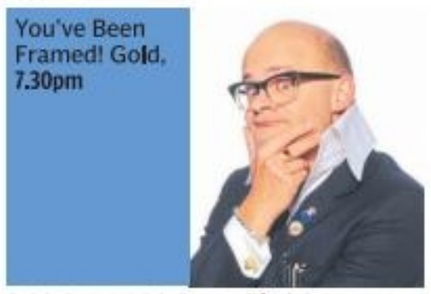
9.00 Turkey with Simon Reeve The first of two programmes in which the presenter explores the country that lies at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. (S)

10.00 FILM Cold in July (2014) (15) Premiere. A man finds his life descending into chaos after being hailed as a hero. Crime thriller, starring Michael C Hall and Sam Shepard. (S)

11.45 Live at the Apollo Romesh Ranganathan hosts, with guests Jason Byrne and Stewart Francis. (S)(R)

12.15 FILM Night Train to Lisbon (2013) (12) Drama, starring Jeremy Irons. (S) **2.00** Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **3.00** Holby City (S)(R) **4.00** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV



6.00 CITV 7.30 Scrambled!9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Countrywise: Guide to Britain** (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **10.55 Wild Australia with Ray Mears** (S)(R) **11.25 All Star Family Fortunes** (S)(R) **12.10 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.15 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **2.05 FILM Dr No (1962) (PG)** (S) **4.15 ITV News** (S) **4.25 Live World Cup 2018 Qualifier** England v Lithuania (Kick-off 5.00pm). (S)

7.30 You've Been Framed! Gold Comical clips, narrated by Harry Hill. (S)(R)

8.00 Vera The detective investigates Newcastle's drug underworld to discover the identity of a man found dead in the river. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.15 World Cup Qualifier Highlights England v Lithuania. Action from the Group F clash between the countries at Wembley Stadium.

11.30 The Nightly Show Best Bits Highlights from the fourth week of the entertainment show. (S)

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union **12.55** Jackpot247 **3.00** The Cube (S)(R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

6.00 Kirstie's Vintage Gems (S)(R) **6.15 The King of Queens** (S)(R) **6.40 Cycling: The Pioneer** (S) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **2.00 Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix Highlights** (S) **4.40 The Restoration Man** (S)(R) **5.45 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **6.40 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 Our Guy in China Guy Martin explores Beijing, helping out at a scrapyard, and visiting the hub of the market for selling rare and exotic supercars. (S)(R)

8.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman The presenter explores the Thames from its source in Gloucestershire to the Kent and Essex marshes. (S)

9.00 Homeland Carrie catches a break, Keane makes a plan and Max goes undercover. (S)

10.05 Gogglebox The households' opinions on recent TV. (S)(R)

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the quiz with guest captain Claudia Winkleman. Last in the series. (S)(R)

12.00 FILM Grease 2 (1982) (PG) (S) **2.00** UK's Best Place to Live (S)(R) **2.55** Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year (S)(R) **3.50** Building the Dream (S) **4.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems (S)(R) **5.05** Fifteen to One (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **10.45 FILM The Princess Bride (1987) (PG)** (S) **12.35 FILM The Wizard of Oz (1939) (U)** (S) **2.35 FILM The Parent Trap (1998) (U)** Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan and Natasha Richardson. (S) **5.00 FILM Dirty Dancing (1987) (12)** Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. (S) **6.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

7.00 FILM Michael Jackson's This Is It (2009) (PG) Documentary following the singer rehearsing for his planned 50 shows at London's O2. (S)

9.00 Michael Jackson: Man in the Mirror Profile of the singer, exploring his development from child star to iconic adult performer. (S)

11.05 Michael Jackson on Trial The singer's 2005 trial on charges of child molestation, revealing how he was found not guilty. (S)

12.05 Kings of Pop (S) **1.00** SuperCasino **3.10** All New Traffic Cops: Under Attack (S)(R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Emmerdale **8.35** Coronation Street **10.30** The Voice UK **12.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **12.50** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **1.00** 2Awesome: 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: 2Awesome: Fame High **2.00** 2Awesome: 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: 2Awesome: LA Story **2.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.15** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Concluded. **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **6.00** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **7.00** FILM: Coyote Ugly (2000) (12) Comedy drama, starring Piper Perabo. **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **7.45** Heartbeat **9.50** Murder, She Wrote **11.50** Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles **2.10** FILM: Anne of Green Gables (2015) (U) Family drama, starring Ella Ballentine. **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Rising Damp Forever **11.10** FILM: Rising Damp (1980) (PG) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** FILM: Rising Damp (1980) (PG) **1.10** Inspector Morse **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **8.00** Stunning Soloists at the BBC **9.00** 6 Music 2017 Festival Highlights **10.30** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **12.00** Timewatch: The Last Days of First World War **1.00** Tank Men **1.30** The Century That Wrote Itself **2.30** How to Get Ahead: At Renaissance Court **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.10** Rude(ish) Tube **6.35** Black-ish **6.55** FILM: Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back (2010) (U) Animated sci-fi comedy sequel, with the voice of Zack Shada. **8.25** Hollyoaks **11.00** Made in Chelsea **12.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** FILM: Iron Man 2 (2010) (12) Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr. **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** FILM: The Adjustment Bureau (2011) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon and Emily Blunt. **12.05** Tattoo Fixers **1.05** The Goldbergs **1.40** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.35** Gap Year **3.20** Melissa & Joey **3.45** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Coast vs Country **9.55** Walks with My Dog **11.00** Homes by the Med **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Nazi Megastructures **9.00** Father Ted **10.05** Man Down **11.10** 24 Hours in A&E **12.15** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.15** Man Down **2.15** Nazi Megastructures **3.15** Food Unwrapped **3.40** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Addams Family (1991) (PG) Black comedy, starring Anjelica Huston. **1.00** Rango (2011) (PG) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. **3.05** Sherlock Holmes: Terror by Night (1946) (PG) Mystery, starring Basil Rathbone. **4.20** Inkheart (2008) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **6.25** The Way Back (2010) (12) Drama, starring Ed Harris. **9.00** Ted (2012) (15) Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg. **11.05** The Stag (2013) (15) **12.55** Crazy Heart (2009) (15) Drama, starring an Oscar-winning Jeff Bridges. **3.10** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Top Gear **8.00** Top Gear India Special **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **11.00** Traffic Cops **12.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **1.00** Lizard Lick Towing **3.00** Traffic Cops **4.00** Top Gear **5.00** Gavin & Stacey **7.00** Traffic Cops **8.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** Crackanory **12.30** Mock the Week **1.50** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **2.45** Parks and Recreation **3.35** The Indestructibles **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 New Tricks **8.00** The Bill **12.00** Great Expectations **4.00** Catherine Cookson's The Glass Virgin **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.45** The Mrs Bradley Mysteries **3.35** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Monkey Life **9.30** Futurama **10.00** The Flash **11.00** WWE Raw Hits **12.00** Futurama **3.00** Modern Family **6.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Wild Things **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Force: Essex **1.00** Air Ambulance ER **2.00** Arrow **2.55** Police 10/7

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The British **7.00** The West Wing **12.00** Without a Trace **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Big Little Lies **10.05** Real Time with Bill Maher **11.15** Fortitude **12.15** Billions **1.25** Westworld **2.50** Banshee **4.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

W SKY: 109

6.10 Don't Tell the Bride USA **7.00** Motorway Cops **8.05** Choccywoccydoodah **8.40** Celebrity MasterChef **12.00** Doctor Who **2.00** FILM: Oliver! (1968) (U) Musical, starring Ron Moody. **5.00** Outnumbered **7.00** One Born Every Minute **8.00** Dr Christian Will See You Now **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Olly Murs **10.00** Murdered by My Boyfriend **11.20** Happy Valley **1.55** The Musketeers **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **7.20** dinnerladies **8.40** Porridge **10.40** Boomers **11.20** Porridge **3.00** FILM: Look Who's Talking (1989) (12) Comedy, starring Kirstie Alley. **4.45** Porridge **8.00** Peep Show **10.00** Psychoville 2 **12.00** The Thick of It **1.00** Nighty Night **2.00** jam **2.25** Human Remains **3.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Live Formula 1. The Australian Grand Prix (Start-time 6.00am). **8.30** Live Formula 1. Updates and interviews from the paddock area following the Australian Grand Prix. **9.10** Football Gold **9.30** The Sunday Supplement **11.00** Goals on Sunday **12.00** Live EFL. Scunthorpe United v Bradford City (kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live EFL. Doncaster Rovers v Plymouth Argyle (kick-off 2.45pm). **4.55** Live International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers. Azerbaijan v Germany (kick-off 5.00pm). **7.00** Live International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers. Scotland v Slovenia (kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **10.30** Goals on Sunday **11.30** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **1.00** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **1.30** Darts Gold **2.00** Premier League Years **4.00** Sporting Heroes: Bob Wilson Interviews Gordon Banks **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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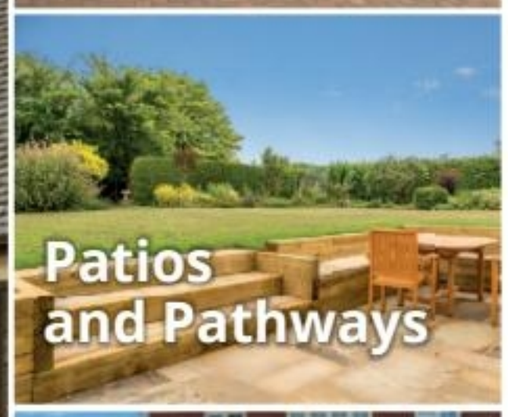

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North Abingdon
An extended, three bedroomed, double fronted bungalow in this desirable edge of town location. The property is nicely proportioned with versatile, well-presented accommodation, currently used as a three bedroom, three reception room home with a through sitting/dining room, separate family room and a fitted kitchen. Set back from the road, with off road parking, an attractive fore garden and a lawned rear garden with patio. The generous plot also provides scope for further enlargement, subject to any necessary consents. EPC - D

Guide Price £465,000

Drayton
A chain free, detached four bedroom family home, situated in a small cul de sac within this popular village. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, triple aspect sitting room and separate dining area, kitchen/breakfast room and separate utility. A useful study and cloakroom complete the ground floor. Four first floor bedrooms, the master has ample storage and an en suite, family bathroom. The property sits within pretty gardens with mature trees and shrubs and has a generous drive and a double garage. EPC - D

£600,000 Guide Price

Culham £650,000
A handsome, double fronted four bedroomed detached cottage, sympathetically extended and modernised to provide a spacious and well thought out family home. Three reception rooms and two bathrooms, period features throughout and rear garden with lawn, paved terrace and a covered dining area. EPC - D

Marcham £170,000
Forming part of this select retirement complex, a larger design of a two bedroom first floor apartment, ideally located within close to amenities. EPC - D

North Abingdon £235,000
Offering excellent value for money for either a first time or investment buyer. A two bedroom first floor maisonette benefiting from an extended lease and a garage. EPC - C

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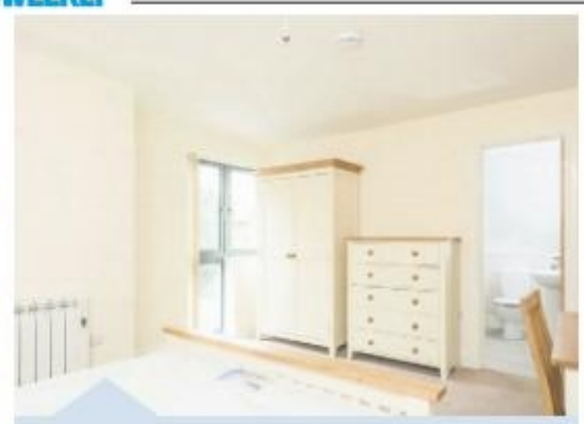

Abingdon £685 pcm

A en-suite bedroom in this modern apartment block. Private shower room, shared communal kitchen. Rent includes utilities. Furnished.

Abingdon £785 pcm

A studio apartment in this apartment block, located on the North side of Abingdon. Rent includes utilities. Furnished.

Abingdon

A modern and tastefully refurbished first floor two bedroom apartment located in Milton Heights close to the A34, convenient for commuting either north or south of Oxfordshire. Unfurnished.
EPC RATING: C

£895 pcm

Abingdon £925 pcm

A delightful ground floor apartment perfectly located for the Abingdon Business Park, Fairacres Retail Park and offering great access to the A34. Private entrance, two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom. Neutral decor throughout. Allocated parking. Communal garden. Unfurnished.
EPC RATING: C

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ABINGDON A newly converted & extended stunning detached house, 2500 sq. ft. of accommodation, village location. EPC Rating C.

£695,000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

DRAYTON An extended five bedroom detached family home nestled in a small no through road and tastefully presented throughout. Conveniently located within short drive of Abingdon, Didcot and the A34. EPC Rating D

£589,000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

ABINGDON This well-presented three bedroom bungalow sits on approx. 1/4 acre plot in the sort after village of Sunningwell, which has been thoughtfully extended, with rooms boasting flexible usage throughout, and stunning landscaped gardens to both the front and rear. EPC Rating D.

£499,950 Abingdon office 01235 526907

GROVE Detached family home situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac location. Kitchen with separate utility space and cloakroom, two reception rooms and a conservatory. Four bedrooms, en-suite. NO ONWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C

£375,000 Wantage office 01235 772670

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES This charming Victorian house is situated within walking distance of Albert park and within 1 mile of the town centre and retains many original features including sash windows and striped wooden floors. EPC Rating D.

£350,000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

WANTAGE A beautiful period home situated in a premium location within walking distance to the market place. With well presented and flexible accommodation and a sizeable rear garden. EPC Rating D.

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WANTAGE A four bedroom detached home in a popular cul-de-sac location. Ground floor cloakroom, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, family bathroom, garage & driveway parking. EPC Rating C

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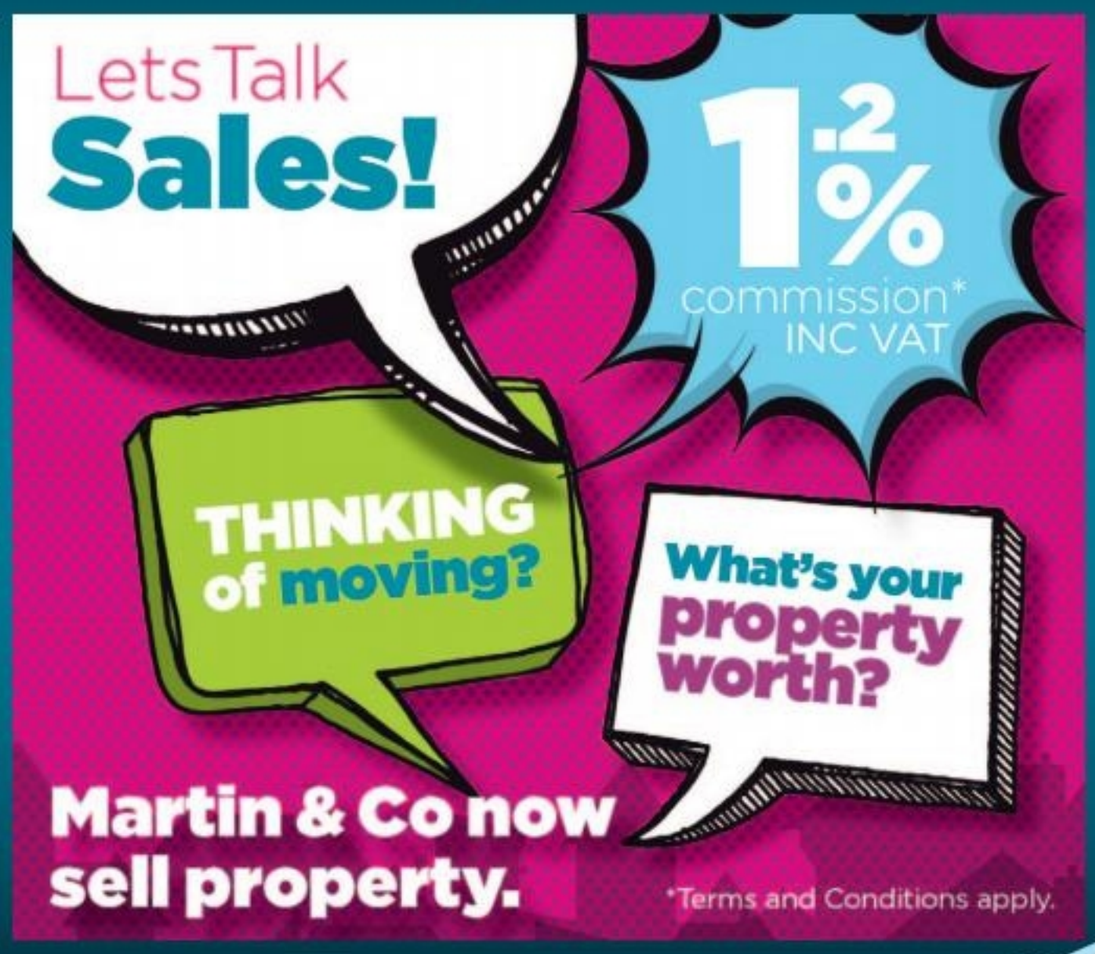

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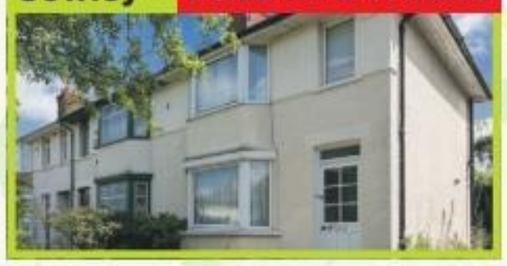
Botley — SOLD IN 1 DAY, 105% OF ASKING PRICE

Cowley — SOLD IN 2 WEEKS



Cowley — SOLD IN 3 DAYS 100%

Cumnor — FOR SALE

Cumnor Hill — FOR SALE

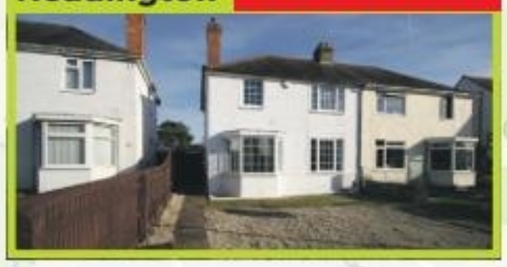
Empress — SOLD, 100% ASKING PRICE

Eynsham — FOR SALE

Eynsham — FOR SALE

Greater Leys — SOLD 1 DAY

Headington — SOLD IN 4 DAYS



Headington — 4 DAYS IN MARKETING

Hollow Way — SOLD

Woodman Court — SOLD 100% ASKING PRICE

Jericho — FOR SALE

Kirtlington — FOR SALE

Marston — FOR SALE

Oxford City Centre — SOLD IN 8 DAYS

Sandhills — FOR SALE

Friars Wharf — FOR SALE

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'Flipping' Heck - Oxford Property Values Rise by £68.19 a day

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Investing in Oxford buy to let property is different from investing in the stock market or depositing your hard-earned cash in the Building Society. When you invest your money in the Building Society, it is considered by many as the safe option. But, the returns you can achieve are awfully low (the best 2-year bond rate from Nationwide is a whopping 0.75% a year!). An alternative investment is the Stock Market, which can give great returns, but unless you are able or willing to be on the phone every day to your Stockbroker, you will most likely invest in stock market funds - making the investment quite hands off meaning one always has the feeling of not being in control.

However, with buy to let, things can be more hands on. One of the things many landlords like is the physical nature of property - the fact that you can touch the bricks and mortar. It is this factor that attracts many of Oxford's landlords – they are making their own decisions, rather than entrusting them to city whizz kids in Canary Wharf playing roulette with their savings.

I always say investing in property is a long-term game. When you invest in the property market, you can earn from your investment in two ways. When a property increases in value over time, it is known as 'capital growth'. Capital growth, also known as capital appreciation, has been strong in recent times in Oxford. Whilst the value of property does go up as well as down (just like shares do) Oxford has enjoyed consistent year on year increases since 2006. Rental income is what the tenant pays you - hopefully this will also grow over time. If you divide the annual rent into the value (or purchase price) of the property, this is your gross yield, or annual return. Deducting any mortgage and other costs such as maintenance and/or letting agent fees gives you the net yield. Over the last 5 years, an average Oxford property has risen by £124,450 (equivalent to £68.19 a day), taking it to a current average value of £490,800 (based on all properties sold registered in the Land Registry). Gross yields start at around 4% a year, but can reach double digits' percentages for larger properties that have a licence to be a house of multiple occupation (HMO)

However, something I haven't spoken of before is the more specialist area of flipping property to make money. (flipping - buying a property, carrying out some minor cosmetics and re selling it quickly). I have seen several investors recently who have made decent returns from this strategy. For example:

• One Oxford Investor paid £290,000 for a 2 bed apartment on Cheney Lane in January 2015. It appears some cosmetic work was done to the property and it was resold a few months ago (November 2016) for £360,000 a 24.14% return before costs (or compound annual return equivalent of 12.29% AER) http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/detailMatching.html?prop=42804441&sale=89070732&country=england

• Another Oxford Investor flipped a lovely 3 bed semi on Croft Avenue, Kidlington, paying £330,000 in May 2015 and selling it again after some doing some cosmetic works for £422,500 a few months ago (December 2016) … 28.03% return before costs (or equivalent 16.52% AER) http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/detailMatching.html?prop=45863565&sale=89071191&country=england

This demonstrates how the Oxford property market has not only provided very strong returns for the average investor over the last five years but how it has permitted a group of motivated and active landlords to become particularly wealthy.

In my article next week I will introduce the proprietary model I have developed to help landlords and property investors to plan their returns – understanding how to optimise a portfolio for both capital growth and rental yields. For more insight into the Oxford property market visit www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk

Attractive mews property in a charming historic village

An exquisitely designed converted mews house located in this tranquil historic village of Dorchester-On-Thames. The property is finished to a high standard with modern conveniences and stylish period features, the property is offered unfurnished and is situated over 3 floors. Located in the heart of this historic village with a thriving community and offering local amenities. The village is well placed for a variety of state and independent schools in the area and has easy access for Oxford, Reading and Abingdon. Finished to a very high standard with stylish period features including flagstone flooring and benefiting from underfloor heating. The property has a spacious entrance hallway with a wet room and a spiral staircase leading to the first floor. The first floor has a master bedroom with an en suite bedroom an open plan kitchen, dining and living area also a separate utility room. On the second floor is a spacious second bedroom. The property

benefits from allocated parking. To book a viewing contact selling agent Martin&co Lettings Abingdon

01235 524300 or vist abingdon@martinco.com

It's time for a spring clean outside for sale success

Andrews

The evenings are getting lighter, the clocks spring forward this coming weekend and we're seeing increasing amounts of sunshine. That can only mean one thing: spring has well and truly sprung!

And it's now that we turn attentions to spring cleaning and giving our outside spaces a little TLC.

Having a well-presented home which showcases it in its very best light not only provides a personal sense of pride, but for anyone who has considered a house sale this spring, kerb appeal and interior attention to detail is an absolute must – especially in a market where demand remains high and sales are being achieved quickly.

So, here's our checklist of what you need to consider when you don those rubber gloves and dust down the lawnmower.

First impressions count. There's no denying that the first view of a property can impact on what the potential purchaser thinks once they've passed the threshold so don't deny due care and attention to your garden or outside space.

A garden path should be clear of leaves and other garden debris; lawns should be neatly mowed and gardening equipment needs to be stored out of sight. And don't forget that a fresh lick of paint and clean windows will also help to give your home some added sparkle and kerb appeal.

Once inside, you don't want to overpower your viewers. The smell of baked bread or freshly brewed coffee are both age-old tips, but in this better weather you simply can't beat some fresh air! So, throw open some windows and doors to freshen your home before a viewing.

If it's a particularly bright (and warm!) day, then patio doors can be left open whilst the viewing takes place in order create additional illusions of space and bringing the outdoors inside.

Spring is also a time for new beginnings and, therefore, an ideal time to let go of all the clutter that you may have accumulated over the years. Simply, a neat, tidy home will make rooms seem larger and allow viewers to imagine themselves setting up residence there themselves.

Andrews offers free, no-obligation property consultations where you can discuss how to best present your home with a local market expert, or pop in and meet the team in one of our five branches across Oxfordshire. www.andrewsoline.co.uk

5 tips for your bathroom floor

When choosing bathroom flooring, there's much more to consider than just looks; more than any other room, we need to consider the floor's practical qualities, and whether it can withstand the wear that will be thrown its way. Read on and ensure you're fully versed in the options available to you!

TIP 1: Is my floor waterproof?

Crucial in a bathroom environment, you need your floor to withstand the splishing and splashing that will likely take place. There are a number of floors on the market, namely laminates, that claim to be 'water resistant'.

TIP 2: What other practical qualities does my floor hold?

There are other practical credentials you might want to consider when picking your new bathroom floor. For instance, how slip resistant is this underfoot installation? Equally, does your floor comprise an easy-wipe surface for simple maintenance?

TIP 3: Are we opting for a wood or stone look?

Now on to the interesting stuff: the flooring's aesthetic. Researching a floor's practical qualities is very necessary, but ultimately as homeowners, we care most about looks! When selecting between wood and stone, consider not only the nature of the room, but also the nature of your home as a whole. Are we looking for a clean and contemporary choice from Stonemark? Or something with classic charm from Luxury Woods?

TIP 4: How much space do I have to cover?

This is an often-overlooked aspect when selecting a floor. If you're tight on space (like many bathrooms will be), then you'd be best suited looking to smaller plank or tile dimensions, which will help to make the room appear bigger than it actually is. If you're lucky enough to own a large, open bathroom area, then perhaps a bigger plank will work; just make sure to consider this in your decision-making process, and order your free samples first!

TIP 5: Does my bathroom lack colour or inspiration?

With bathrooms generally being smaller spaces, it's important we don't try and overload on colour or pattern. This said, it does depend on the fixtures and fittings that are already in place. If your room feels a little bit bland, then opt for something with punchy colour or zany pattern; if a series of shades are already present, however, consider a cleaner effect underfoot, with whites, creams and greys just some of the neutrals available in the Leoline portfolio.

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- Central Location
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- First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating

North Abingdon £230,000

- North Abingdon Location
- Two Bedrooms
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking Space
- Open-Plan Living Accommodation

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Situated on the sought after Southwold Development within walking distance of the Bicester North station is this four bedroom, two bathroom detached property. Viewing is highly recommended for the versatile living sapce to be appreciated.

Green Lane £389,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

This four bedroom, three reception room property is situated on a good size plot in Upper Arncott, refurbished to a very high standard with good versatile accommodation. Viewing is a must to be appreciated.

Walnut Close £460,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

Set at the bottom of a private road is this exceptionally finished family home. Offering spacious and stylish accommodation through out, this superb home has been extended and extensively improved by the current owners.

Wear Road £275,000

NEW ISTRUCTION

Situated on the sought after Greenwood Homes development a very well presented three bedroom link semi detached property with integral garage, significantly improved by current owners, stylish fitted kitchen, luxury bathroom and landscaped gardens.

Lucerne Avenue POA £320,000

S.S.T.C

Spacious & stylish townhouse enjoys views across the playing fields & benefits from re-fitted kitchen & re-fitted en-suite with ample accommodation arranged over three floors all within walking distance of Bicester North station.

Freehold Street £525,000

OPEN TO OFFERS

Set within the PICTURESQUE VILLAGE is this spacious family home which offers ample accommodation across two floors. The property offers superb transport links and is offered to the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN.

Wensum Crescent £240,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

A spacious 2 bedroom END TERRACE home with 2 RECEPTION ROOMS and a GENEROUS REAR GARDEN.

Catterick Road £465,000

S.S.T.C

An extremely desirable family home with 4 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, 2 RECEPTION ROOMS and a STUNNING KITCHEN-LIVING-DINER that opens to a south facing rear garden.

Honeysuckle Close £270,000

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Mullein Road £279,950

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Dunlin Court £270,000

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Barry Avenue £324,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

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Banbury £210,000

EPC F
Three Bedrooms
Semi Detached
Driveway
Spacious Living Area

Middleton Cheney £550,000

EPC C
Five Bedrooms Detached
South Facing Garden
Countryside Views
Village Location
No Onward Chain

Banbury £120,000

EPC D
One Bedroom
First Floor Apartment
Well Maintained Throughout
Off Street Parking

Banbury £250,000

EPC D
Sought After Village
Close To Local Amenities
Corner Plot
Walk In Shower Room

Middleton Cheney £460,000

Four Bedroom Detached Family Home
Two Bathrooms
Two Receptions
Sought After Village Location
Built By David Wilson Homes

Banbury £230,000

EPC Awaited
Three Bedrooms
Semi Detached
Spacious Kitchen/Diner
Popular Location
Spacious Living Room

Banbury £239,995

EPC B
Semi Detached
Three Bedrooms
Off Street Parking
Garage

Banbury £240,000

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Driveway

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Plot 100-The Didsbury Special
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FARINGDON £230,000

Stunning two bedroom cottage in the historic market town of Faringdon offering two reception rooms, a beautiful fitted kitchen, modern family bathroom with garden to front.

SHILTON PARK £239,950

Large maisonette offering two large double bedrooms, a large open plan kitchen/diner, lounge, family bathroom and a single garage to the side with allocated parking to front.

SHILTON PARK £295,000

This fabulous three bedroom mid-terraced family house comprises of a cloakroom, kitchen/diner, family room, private lounge, three bedrooms, ensuite and a family bathroom.

SHILTON PARK £305,000

A beautifully presented end of terrace family home situated in the popular Shilton park development. Offering spacious living.

SHILTON PARK £309,500

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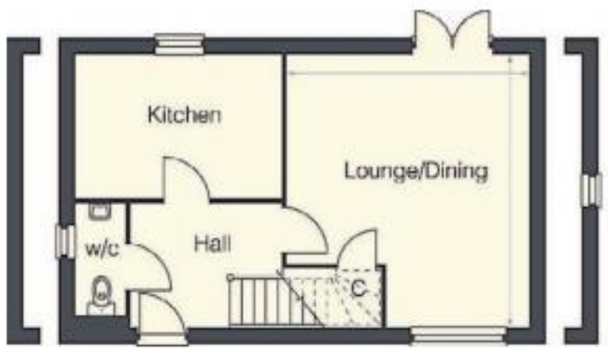

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Plot 14, Witney — £287,996

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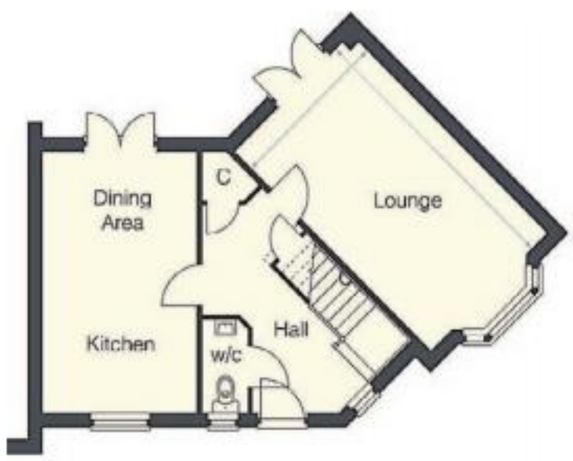

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Temple Cowley £315,000

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EPC Rating: B

Iffley £390,000

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EPC Rating: D

Blackbird Leys £320,000

Own Driveway & Garage, EXTENDED to the front giving a larger than average lounge. White Gloss Fitted Kitchen, dining room, three Bedrooms, white bathroom suite.

EPC Rating: E

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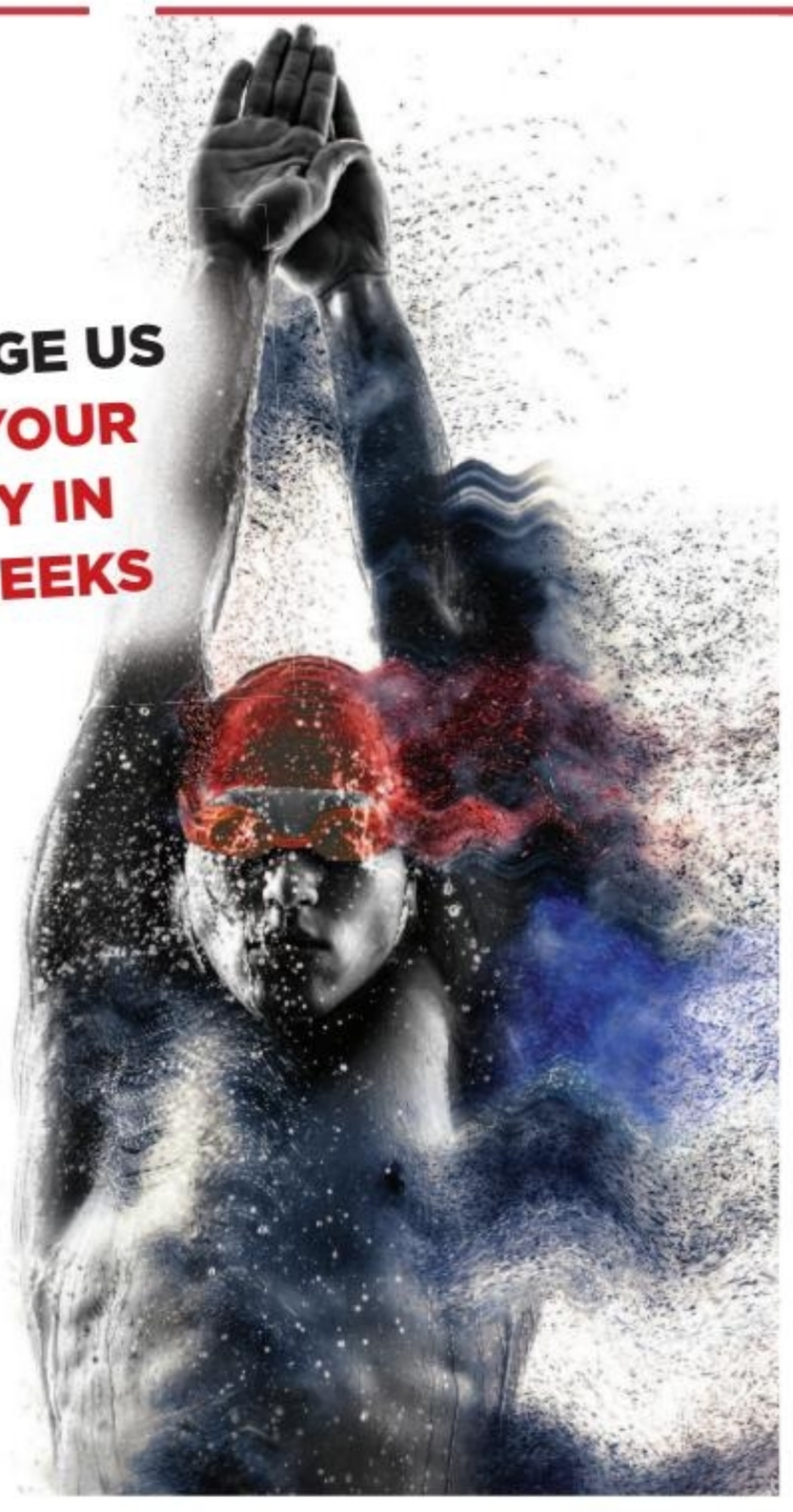

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OXFORD

Berinsfield **Offers in Excess £270,000**

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EPC Rating: D

Blackbird Leys **Offers in Excess £320,000**

IDEAL FAMILY HOME with garage to the side and potential to extend (subject to planning). The accommodation consists of lounge, diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens.

EPC Rating: Awaited

Cowley **£350,000**

The property is in need of cosmetic refurbishment, offered with parking and garage and further benefitting from No ONWARD CHAIN .

EPC Rating: E

Oxford **£360,000**

A DELIGHTFUL period property within walking distance to Oxford City and offered with 'no onward chain'. Situated in a Cul-De-Sac the property allows easy access to amenities while remaining privately positioned at the end of the street.

EPC Rating: E

Greater Leys **£320,000**

A modern 3 BEDROOM semi detached boasting an EN-SUITE SHOWER to the master bedroom. On the ground floor is a cloakroom, fitted kitchen/dining room plus separate living room. Garage to the side with PARKING ON OWN DRIVEWAY for two vehicles.
EPC Rating: D

Littlemore **£385,000**

Well-presented TOWN HOUSE situated in a desirable cul-de-sac. The property incorporates an integral garage, bedroom and bathroom to ground floor, offering the prospect of a self-contained unit (subject to usual planning conditions).

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Littlemore **£300,000**

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Welcome to the party!

By James Richings

WRITTEN 40 years ago, Mike Leigh's classic Abigail's Party is as popular with audiences now as it was at the time.

It's the party with everything - comedy, drama and satire. Beverly and Laurence Moss decide to invite their new neighbours Tony and Angela Cooper over to dinner, just to get to know them.

They also invite another neighbour recently divorced Susan Lawson who is fretting as her teenage daughter Abigail (of the title, but never seen) is throwing a party too.

What seemed like a god idea soon turns into a nightmare for everyone involved. So expect to cringe when it runs at the Oxford Playhouse from Monday April 3 to Saturday April 8.

And the nerves are just starting to kick in for actress Amanda Abbington who plays Beverly, as she prepares for her first stage show in nearly two years.

The 43-year-old is best known for playing Dr Watson's wife Mary in Sherlock.

"I'm really nervous about it," she said. "I haven't done it for, like, two years so I'm absolutely dreading it.

"But I have to do it because I really wanted to do a piece of theatre.

"It hones your acting muscle and my acting muscle needed a bit of exercise so when this gift of a part came along I thought 'You only live once so you have to be bold and brave and you have to take it on because you're going to be playing Beverly, which is just an amazing role'.

"It's about taking it, embracing it, running with the fear and anxiety and seeing what happens - but I'm absolutely terrified.

"I might just do it completely drunk, going on stage completely hammered like some of the old actors used to in the 1940s."

The 1970s piece saw Alison Steadman as Beverly, and Amanda admitted to watching the original continuously to get the character right.

"It's about getting the essence of Alison, because you can't get away from how she created the character," Amanda said.

"But, you'll also see my own take on her and trying to make her a little bit different to Alison.

"You can't get too far away from her because it's her words and her creation.

"It's about paying homage to Alison and the character plus it's such an amazing role because Beverly is flawed and funny.

The party in full swing
Picture: Nobby Clark

"I'm looking forward to delving into all that."

She added: "I think Mike Leigh is one of our finest creators and directors and it was such an iconic play in the 1970s.

"Alison Steadman made it such an iconic part and the writing is so strong, the subject matter is so strong and it's a lovely period piece."

The show is suitable for anyone over the age of 12.

Tickets cost from £15 to £32.50.

Smoke blows in

MUSIC: Country rock band Blackberry Smoke will be at the O2 Academy on Monday.

The five-piece group from Atlanta arrive in the city to perform tunes off their five studio albums.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £22.50.

Peace breaks out

MUSIC: Actress, musician and activist Heather Peace will be at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury on Wednesday.

The 41-year-old from Bradford who is best known for her roles in Emmerdale and Waterloo Road, comes to the Spiceball Park venue to perform tunes off her four studio albums. It begins at 7.30pm and tickets cost £24.

Touching tale

THEATRE: The moving relationship between the young and old will be shown at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on Sunday, April 2.

A young girl who spends time with on old lady suffering from memory loss in Monday's Child.

Together in a dream-like garden, they create memories, which will move the Station Road audience.

Tickets cost from £6 to £8 and it starts at 2pm.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Walking towards flamenco

By James Richings

THE Cornerstone audience will be treated to flamenco in various guises when Mi Flamenco take to the stage next week.

Dance company owner Ester Tal spent 14 years in Spain perfecting the popular dance as she prepares to take the show on a short tour across the south including stopping at the Station Road venue on Friday March 31.

Ester revealed the show is 'unusual' compared to other flamenco acts.

"It is unusual in that it is divided into three acts and not two halves," she told the Guardian.

"Each act has a theme, from nocturnal melodies, to Nutcracker-esque magic and everything in between.

"I can't give too much away, as the surprise elements are what we hope will intrigue and give joy to the audience but it's called Incognito because it is flamenco in various guises."

Born in Dorset, Ester surrounded herself with Spanish entertainment before falling in love with flamenco dancing as a young girl.

Attracted by the Bohemian gypsy culture and the drama of flamenco in particular, Ester decided to move to Madrid in 1993, where she met her guitarist husband, Uri Tal.

She studied at the world-famous flamenco academy, Amor de Dios, for seven years before the couple moved to Jerez in Andalusia, where they performed and taught flamenco.

Their dedication towards the fast paced dance captured the attention of locals and inspired Ester to take the show abroad.

"My mother was a very good Latin and ballroom dancer and she used to teach me, so I think she was probably my early inspiration for dance in general," she said.

"I did the usual ballet, tap etc as a child, so I was always dancing.

"I was (and still am) fascinated by languages and different cultures, so all these things combined – with a strong personality in the mix – was probably why I was drawn to flamenco in the first place.

"I went to Spain, with the intention of staying one year to get to know flamenco up close.

"This year became 14 years, during which time, I studied intensively with some amazing dancers, living and working in the flamenco community in Jerez in Andalusia.

"I just took a curious step towards flamenco I suppose, and kept on walking!"

She added: "Expect authentic flamenco layered with magic, charm, original musical compositions, powerful dance, heart-breaking music and a touch of humour.

"So expect the unexpected."

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost from £12 to £16.

Relive Sgt Pepper

MUSIC: The Bootleg Beatles will be reliving the glory days of The Beatles when they arrive at the New Theatre on Saturday.

The group of four musicians are on a UK tour to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the release of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost from £27.40 to £32.40.

Hush...now listen

MUSIC: The Old Fire Station will be hosting The Listening Room on Tuesday, March 28.

Similar to an open mic night, the George Street venue will showcase some of the best local talent in the area, with Tuesday's line-up having home-grown musician Martha Bailey and four-piece folk group Moonrakers performing.

Tickets cost £7, it begins at 8pm.

Warpaint in the city

MUSIC: Rock band Warpaint will be at the O2 Academy on Tuesday, March 28.

The four-piece group from Los Angeles arrive at the Cowley Road venue to perform tracks off their latest album Heads Up, which was released in September last year.

It starts at 7pm and tickets cost £22.50.

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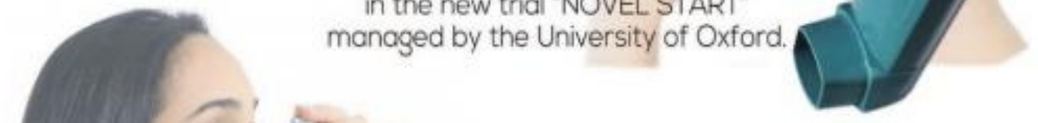

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Magical Victorian parlour tricks

By James Richings

AFTER their popular 2015 tour, magicians Rhys Morgan and Robert West are back on the road.

Their new show Parlour Tricks will see the magicians perform wizardry with a Victorian twist.

And they'll be at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on Sunday April 9.

Their show is not for a while yet but you better get your tickets before they sell out, as the dynamic duo are in demand, with their Station Road visit expected to be a sell out.

So, what can we expect next month?

"Ah, the toughest question for a magic show," Rhys told the Guardian.

"The short and entirely serious answer is the unexpected and the impossible, or at least the theoretically impossible.

"Clearly it's possible somehow, otherwise how would we do it?"

The two met during their university days when they were both doing the same science course, and formed a friendship when they expressed their passion for the arts.

First getting into magic at the age of 20, the two wanted to stand out from their competitors, so Rhys and Robert decided to form their act around the Victorian era – dressing up in clothes from the times along with having back stories about their on stage personas.

The idea paid off and the two are currently enjoying a very successful first tour with their magic for two years.

And Rhys hopes the success will continue, despite the odd trick going wrong. "Things often go wrong, or at least deviate from the course that we would like them to take.

"The key thing to remember is that the audience don't know what is supposed to happen so you have to get good at playing it cool and shrugging off the errors!"

Their visit occurs just after the first anniversary of Paul Daniels' death .

Paul is regarded as one of the most successful magicians in Britain.

"We grew up watching Paul on television although by the time we started doing magic ourselves we were more focussed on Derren Brown," Rhys said.

"We first met Paul in 2011 when he was doing a show at the Edinburgh Fringe and he was very generous to us in his time and encouragement.

"We met him several times over the subsequent years and were deeply saddened by the news of his passing.

"He was one of the very best performing magicians and entertainers that the world has seen."

Tickets cost £11 and it starts at 7.30pm.

Rhys Morgan and Robert Smith. Picture: Steve Ullathorne

Tribute to The Boss

MUSIC: A tribute to Bruce Springsteen takes place at the Chipping Norton Theatre tomorrow night.

Glory Days have been travelling around the world for 20 years performing some of the 67-year-old's most popular tunes, such as Born in the USA, Hungry Heart, Dancing in the Dark and many more.

It starts at 7.45pm, tickets £16.50.

Look out for Rooke

COMEDY: Jack Rooke will be at the Burton Taylor Studios on Monday, 27 and Tuesday, 28 March.

The comedian arrives at the Beaumont Street venue with his Good Grief show, where he'll talk about family life and his love for films.

Both performances start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10.

Keep your head up

THEATRE: A play about the everyday problems people face will be performed at Burton Taylor Studios on Monday, April 3.

A teenage girl is trembling with anger in a toilet cubical, a finance worker is preaching tragedy at a train station, and drug addicts are trying to overcome their demons but are failing in Heads Up.

Tickets £10 and it begins at 7.30pm.

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Fri, Mar 24, 6.30pm
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
WINE TASTING
The Oxford Wine Company is a multi award winning local Independent Wine Merchant with a national profile. Winner of 'Best Customer Service 2012' in the Harpers Wine & Spirit Top Merchant Awards, The Oxford Wine Company has won 'Best Wholesaler of the Year' for four years in a row: 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 – an achievement unparalleled in the history of the Harpers Awards.

Fri, Mar 24, 6.30pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
SONIC BOOM SIX
Don't miss indie rockers Circa Waves as they embark on their biggest headline tour to date. The band are set to play a string of unmissable live shows in support of their eagerly anticipated second album, Different Creatures.

Fri, Mar 24, 7.30pm
New Theatre, Oxford
DREAMBOYS
If you're looking for the very best girls night out in the UK, look no further than these incredible stripping hunks. An action packed 2 hour show from start to finish, these boys will literally have you begging for more!

Sat, Mar 25, 6.30pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
CIRCA WAVES
Don't miss indie rockers Circa Waves as they embark on their biggest headline tour to date. The band are set to play a string of unmissable live shows in support of their eagerly anticipated second album, Different Creatures.

Sat, Mar 25, 7.45pm
The Theatre, Chipping Norton
RICHARD HERRING: THE BEST
Richard Herring, King of the Edinburgh Fringe, Metro columnist and the UK's Podfather (RHLSTP, AIOTM) picks his favourite routines from his 12 one-man shows and crams them into 90 minutes for your delectation.

COMEDY

From his deconstruction of the genealogy of Christ to him proving that racists are less racist than liberals, via some of the best knob jokes in the business. Will your favourite routine make the cut? A great introduction to this influential cult comedian for the newcomer and a welcome greatest hits for long term fans.

Mon, Mar 27, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
PULLED APART BY HORSES

Mon, Mar 27 – Mar 28
New Theatre, Oxford
JACK ROOKE: GOOD GRIEF
With a coffin full of sympathy snacks, Jack Rooke and his 85-year old Nan Sicely, invite you to the happiest town in Britain where Dad's dead and the only thing to eat is lasagne.
Rooke's critically acclaimed debut hour blends comedy, storytelling and film. It explores how we treat the bereaved, whilst challenging proposed welfare cuts for grieving families and celebrating finding happiness after tragedy.
Another compelling production from Soho Theatre, Good Grief was shortlisted for Best Show by an Emerging Artist in the Total Theatre Awards 2015. Jack has presented a BBC Radio 4 comedy adaptation of Good Grief and his own BBC3 documentary about happiness is due to air early in 2017.

Tue, Mar 28, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
WARPAINT
LA-based four-piece band Warpaint return to British shores as they continue to support their third album, 'Heads Up'.

Tue, Mar 28 – Sat, Apr 1
New Theatre, Oxford
GREASE
Dust off your leather jackets, pull on your bobby-socks and take a trip to a simpler time as Danny and Sandy fall in love all over again.

Mon, Apr 3
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
HEADS UP
A city. Just like this. Right now. A teenage girl boils with rage in a toilet cubicle. A finance worker preaches doom in a busy train station. An absurd coke-addled celebrity races through town on a mission. A paranoid stoner stares blankly at the endless disasters on the TV news. In just one moment, all their worlds will end.

Mon, Apr 3 – Sat, Apr 8
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
ABIGAIL'S PARTY
Amanda Abbington stars in Mike Leigh's undisputed classic, Abigail's Party.
It's 40 years since the appalling Beverly first put Donna Summer on the turntable, stacked a plate with little cheesy-pineapple sticks, plied her guests with alcohol, cigarettes and Demis Roussos and slow-danced her way across the shag-pile into theatrical history.
The drinks party from hell begins when she and husband Laurence invite round new neighbours, Tony and Ange, along with nervous divorcee Sue; jittery about the bash her teenage daughter, Abigail, is throwing up the road. As that party reportedly gets out of hand, this one too descends into chaos, and comedy, as drama and tragedy combine into an iconic piece of theatre.
Amanda Abbington is best-known for playing Mary Morstan in Sherlock, Miss Mardle in Mr Selfridge and DS Jo Moffat in Cuffs. Directed by Sarah Esdaile (Talking Heads, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof), this new production of Mike Leigh's legendary play is as hilarious and horribly compelling as ever.

Fri, Apr 7, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
JOHN OSBOURNE: 3 STORIES FROM RADIO 4
John Osborne has written and performed several spellbinding half-hour storytelling shows for Radio 4. They are funny, heart-warming and a masterclass in how to keep an audience captivated.

Sat, Apr 8, 11am & 2pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
THREE
Watch as these flamboyant players burst from their wagon of forgotten fables to re-tell such stories as Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks and Grimm's Three Wanderers. These classic stories are brought to life with a flurry of original sing-a-long songs, live music and inventive storytelling.

Sat, Apr 8, 7pm
New Theatre, Oxford
CARO EMERALD
Since the release of her 2010 multi-platinum debut album 'Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor' Caro Emerald has fashioned her own niche. Gorgeous and stylish, Caro blends retro jazz with sampling and modern pop to create her signature sound.

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We will be fundraising on the day and all money raised will go directly to Royal Voluntary Service to support them in their valuable work.

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Epic Volvo that's a dream to drive

By **Tony Yates**

IF you have ever driven a Volvo you will know only too well the stigma that used to surround the owner of such a vehicle.

And how many people will assume the only reason you bought one was because you were either a painter and decorator, over the age of 65, or you find watching the 'Time Team' on TV one of the most exciting events since the birth of the baby Jesus.

Well none of the above is actually true of course and it's all a bit of a red herring if I'm being honest, because buying a Volvo right now will probably be the best decision you are ever likely to make now or at any time in the future.

Power and Efficiency

The V90 I have on test is powered by a 1969cc diesel engine that has 190hp and 400Nm of torque.

Fuel economy comes in at around 62.8mpg (combined) with CO2 emissions of 119g/km, along with a top speed of around 140mph.

This is a big car though and I felt that the engine needed a bit more power to help give it some sprint appeal.

But if you select the 'dynamic' driving mode things start to feel that little bit more exciting and the V90 picks up its pace, but without having a massive effect on fuel economy.

On the Road

I expected nothing but the best and I was not disappointed. The V90 does not roll and scamper around like a scalded cat – it just glides.

It's actually like driving around on air – it's that good.

The grip levels are also another part of the V90 that work so well, because Volvo have once again built a car that feels epic on the road and so sure footed that even the most over enthusiastic driver would struggle to get it out of shape.

The new V90 also delivers cutting-edge Pilot Assist semi-autonomous drive technology, which for me is the most advanced standard safety package on the market today and includes Large Animal Detection and Run-off Road Mitigation – which is yet another feature keeping you safe.

Safety and Technology

Some of the standard equipment in the V90 includes; Sensus Navigation, voice-control system, City Safety including pedestrian, cyclist and front collision warning with fully automatic emergency braking.

Plus, there's Pilot Assist and adaptive cruise control, run-off road protection – it automatically tightens the front seatbelts should the car inadvertently leave the road – LED headlights with active high beam, two-zone climate control with 'Cleanzone' air-quality system, eight-inch active TFT crystal driver's information display, 17-inch alloy wheels (18-inch on D5 PowerPulse versions) and Volvo's in-car infotainment control system, which is basically a nine-inch touch screen control panel and where the majority of functions are accessed.

To Sum Up

The V90 is simply epic – and why we should all consider owning one.

Price model as tested: £43,075 including options

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23.03.17

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MOT: Mar 2018
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30.3.17

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MOT: May 2017
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Miles: 49,500
MOT: Aug 2017
Colour: Met Black
Price: £5,695 ono

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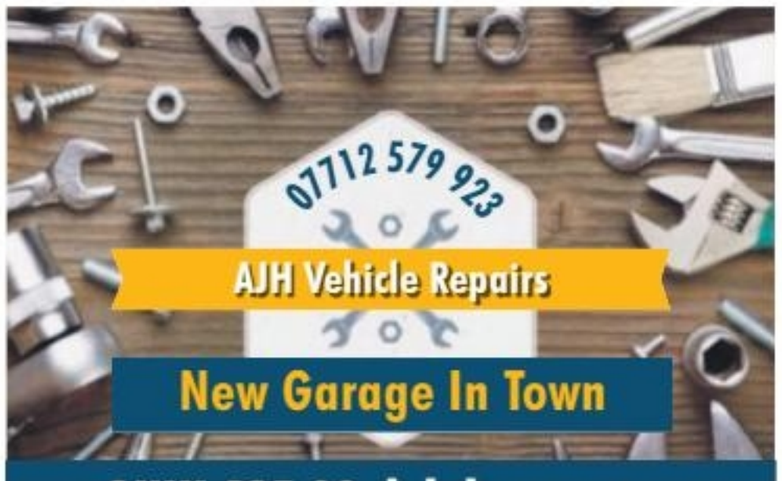

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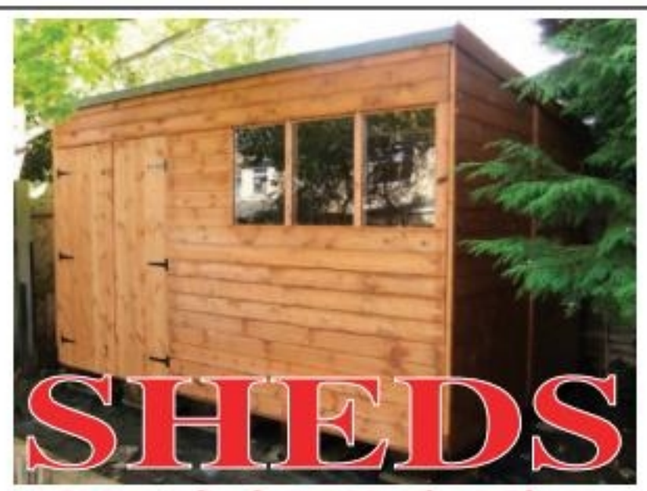

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Lowe wants to hit new highs with Williams

F1

FORMER Williams engineer Paddy Lowe says he wants to bring success back to the team he worked for in the 1980s upon his return as chief technical officer.

Lowe re-joined Williams on Thursday last week, taking overall management responsibility for the engineering operation at their Grove base.

He moves to Williams from current Formula One constructors' champions Mercedes, where he was executive director since June 2013 and helped lead the team to record dominance in the drivers' and constructors' world championships.

The 54-year-old started his Formula One career with Williams in 1987 as a control systems engineer, working with Sir Patrick Head and Adrian Newey.

In his six years with the team he helped pioneer the active suspension system that took Nigel Mansell to the 1992 world championship before moving to McLaren in 1993.

During his 29 years in the sport, Lowe has contributed to 158 race wins, seven drivers' championship titles and five constructors' championship titles, making him one of the leading engineers in the Formula One paddock.

Commenting on his appointment, Lowe, who will also join the company's board of directors and take a shareholding in the Williams Group, said: "I've always had a deep respect for Williams – my first team in Formula One.

"It is a huge honour to return in this leadership position and to have the opportunity to become a shareholder.

"I am extremely motivated to play my part in bringing success back to the team.

"The vision for the future set out by the Williams board is powerful and has compelled me to join an organisation committed to building on its unique legacy and to reaching the pinnacle of Formula One once again.

"I'm looking forward to this exciting new phase to my career."

Rookie Stroll 'excited' by debut

Lance Stroll will become the second-youngest driver to start an F1 race on Sunday Picture: Williams Martini Racing

F1

By George Welch

THERE are no signs of nerves from rookie Williams driver Lance Stroll as he prepares for the season opener of his debut season.

The 18-year-old Canadian will become the second-youngest driver to start in F1 when he takes to the grid for the Grove-based team in Melbourne on Sunday.

The part-street circuit layout of the Melbourne grand prix circuit provides an interesting first challenge of the 2017 season for drivers, with the late start time and setting sun making visibility tricky as the race unfolds.

But for Stroll, he is itching to just get out on the track for the very first time.

He said: "I am really excited for Melbourne. It's going to be quite an experience being my first ever grand prix.

"It's a new track and I have never been to Australia. I am just really looking forward to it all and very excited to get started.

"I can't wait. I have driven the track in the simulator and I have seen some videos, and onboards. It looks quite tricky.

"I will just take it as it comes, push as hard as I can, enjoy it and look forward to the weekend."

Racing alongside Stroll for the first time will be the far more experienced Felipe Massa, who is making his second debut for Williams having rejoined the team just months after announcing his retirement from the sport.

And the 35-year-old Brazilian believes Melbourne is "the perfect place to get started".

He added: "It's quite a tricky track though. It's half racetrack, half street circuit, so it's definitely not easy.

"It's good to have a difficult challenge at the start of the season though – I'm just really looking forward to getting started."

All three Oxfordshire teams – Williams, Renault and Hass – have this month pounded round the Catalunya track near Barcelona to test their machines as they prepared for Sunday's race, the first of 20 races.

But missing from the grid this year will be Banbury-based Manor, which folded in January after its parent company Just Racing Services collapsed.

Baker believes his gridiron side can rise to any occasion

American football

PROUD Oxford Saints Women boss Adam Baker believes his side has a bright future after the second round of their first ever full contact tournament.

The Saints followed up their win and loss in the first round of the 5 vs 5 Sapphire Tournament in Portsmouth at the end of last month with another win and defeat in round two, in Peterborough on March 11.

Oxford beat Peterborough Royals 26-19 before being thrashed 60-25 by Wembley Stallions to give them a 2-2 record, leaving Baker with plenty to ponder but even more to be optimistic about.

He said: "The women showed real grit and toughness. We played well for a team in which every player played both sides of the ball.

"I am excited to expand the squad and see what we can do with a larger team. The future of the Saints is to become a contender.

"I am proud of our 2-2 record for now but I can see a brighter future."

Travelling with a small team due to injuries and absences, Oxford had eight healthy players, who gathered lots of game time and valuable experience, despite less relief available on the sideline.

MVPs for round two went to Megan Brown (defence), Heather Bignell (offence) and Josie McInerney (team).

Meanwhile, the men's side continued their preparation for next month's league opener with a humbling 42-0 pre-season defeat at Farnham Knights on Sunday.

New boy Smith vows KTM 'won't be left in the dust'

MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith has set himself a target of scoring a MotoGP point in his race debut with KTM this weekend, after a largely satisfactory final pre-season test in Qatar.

Unlike teammate Pol Espargaro, Oxford-based Smith was content with his progress over the three days and is optimistic about the weekend's season opener.

Although the updated engine KTM had brought to the test will be shelved for the first race, improvements were made in other areas, namely electronics and a chassis – the fifth riders have tried this the pre-season.

Smith finished 21st in testing – the top KTM racer – and while he was 2.021 seconds off Maverick Viñales' stellar pace, the 26-year old is focusing on securing a point-scoring finish.

"At this moment I'm realistic just because of the amount of time we've had on these bikes and on the project," Smith said on Sunday.

"I would still like to challenge myself to score a point here. That would be 'mission accomplished'.

"If I could just scrape one point that'd be flipping amazing.

"I'm still optimistic. The bike is consistent over the 19 laps at the moment. I'll just work my butt off to score one point."

After representing Tech3 at both Moto2 and MotoGP since 2011, Smith, alongside his Yamaha teammate Espargaro, joined new team Red Bull KTM for their debut season.

And Smith, who finished sixth in the 2015 championship, believes he has joined the right team to progress his career.

He said: "I finished sixth in the world championship. I battled for the top satellite place. It didn't make me happy. Of course, it did at the time but it accomplished that goal.

"And once you do that you look at how do I go to the next step.

"KTM is my chance to go to the next step. When it will ever get to [the level of] where I want to go is down to what we do in the process and how we work.

"Again, I'm thinking long game on this one. We're a lot closer than I thought we were going to be. OK, we're sat at the bottom. But we're sat at the bottom super close.

"We're super close to boys that have been here for two or three years on machines that are tried and tested around a place like this. We have to be pleased with what we've done.

"We can smell them. We can see them. We're not going to be left in the dust. We're not going to be making our own party at the back of the grid."

Bradley Smith in action in Qatar *Picture: Gold and Goose*

Jones: we need goals

Oxford City

By George Welch

Jefferson Louis grabbed a late consolation goal
Picture: Michael Allen

THERE may still be seven games to go but Oxford City's boss is already preparing for next season.

With survival looking a certainty Mark Jones has admitted his mid-table Hoops need to strengthen over the summer if they are to compete further up the National League South table next year.

Speaking after Saturday's narrow 2-1 defeat at East Thurrock but before Tuesday night's 6-1 hammering at league leaders Maidenhead United, Jones said: "We need to keep going as best we can until the end of the season.

"Then we need to sit down as staff and as a club to look at where we want to go and put a plan in place which will hopefully see us moving up the table next season.

"We need to add some more quality to the team, there's no question about that."

In particular, the former coach under Justin Merritt's regime pointed to a blunted forward line as an area requiring urgent improvement.

Jones added: "Our goalscoring form over the last couple of months isn't great. There aren't many games where we have scored more than one goal and that needs to change if we want to be challenging at the top of the table."

A rare mistake from Hoops stopper Craig Hill paved the way for two second half East Thurrock goals on Saturday.

Hill received a seemingly routine back pass but dallied on the ball and was dispossessed by Femi Akinwande, leaving the striker with the simplest of finishes on 54 minutes.

Scott Heard put the hosts 2-0 up nine minutes from time with a low shot, but City midfielder Sammy Khawaja scored a minute later to give Jones' side some hope.

Khawaja should have equalised in stoppage time but the academy product could only fire wide.

The Hoops, who have scored just seven goals in their last nine matches, fell to their first back-to-back defeats under Jones' stewardship on Tuesday night when they were hammered 6-1 at table-toppers Maidenhead.

With Ebbsfleet thumping Bishop's Stortford 8-0 on Tuesday, the Magpies held on to their one point lead at the top thanks to first half goals from Jack Parkinson (6) and Dave Tarpey (33, 36) and second half strikes from Harry Pritchard (57) and Jordan Cox (76, 89 p).

Jefferson Louis did score a late consolation in the 86th minute with the score at 5-0 but it meant little on a night Jones and his players will be keen to forget.

Jones will expect better from his players when they host play-off chasing Poole Town at Court Place Farm on Saturday.

Banbury United have won their last five matches
Picture: E A Barson Photography

Puritans on a winning roll

Banbury United

UNITED turned on the style with two goals in each half during an impressive 4-0 victory at Chesham United on Saturday.

The win, coupled with the Puritans' 2-0 victory over the same side in north Oxfordshire the previous week, all but ended Chesham's play-off hopes.

But United's own play-off charge continued in spectacular fashion as they picked up their fifth win on the trot.

First half goals from Ricky Johnson and Luke Carnell put Mike Ford's side in a commanding position and things only got better in the second half at The Meadow stadium when Johnson netted his brace and Sam Humphreys added extra gloss to the scoreline in injury time.

With fifth place Merthyr Town losing 3-1 at table toppers Chippenham Town, the Puritans' latest win leaves them level on points with their Welsh rivals – outside the Southern Premier League play-offs only on goal difference.

The first 20 minutes were uneventful but Banbury would make the all-important breakthrough in the 24th minute when a Tom Winters free kick from the left was headed into the net by Johnson.

Just four minutes later it was 2-0 when Carnell nodded home a corner from the right by Winters from six yards out.

Chesham still had their fair share of the game but fell 3-0 behind with 15 minutes to go when Johnson beat the home custodian from 12 yards.

Humphreys completed the rout a minute into injury time when he fired home from 10 yards.

The Puritans hope to sneak into the play-off spaces when they travel to 17th placed Stratford Town and Merthyr host struggling Cambridge City on Saturday.

Greens can't make it a magnificent seven

Kidlington

KIDLINGTON'S seven match unbeaten run came to a frustrating end in a 4-2 defeat at Barton Rovers on Saturday.

The final scoreline arguably flattered the home side and the scores were level until midway through the second half, when Kidlington were reduced to 10 men.

It was business as usual when Kiddy forward Lewis Coyle curled in a shot from edge of box just before the half hour to give Julian McCalmon's side the lead.

But they were pegged back less than 10 minutes later when Barton midfielder Scott Sinclair equalised.

The 'Mighty Rovers' took the lead for the first time through skipper Steve Gentle's header on 56 minutes, but they too were pinned back, despite Kiddy keeper Sam Warrell seeing red after a rash challenge 10 yards outside his box.

Despite being down to 10 men the Greens took the game to their hosts and were rewarded when Anaclet Ohiambo shot home in the 66th minute to make it 2-2 with his 26th goal of a prolific season.

Parity was only short lived however as Elliott Bailey fortuitously poked home a rebound to edge Rovers back into the lead just a minute later.

Probing for an equaliser, the Greens were finally picked off on the break when Sinclair scored his second of the afternoon with four minutes remaining.

Adam Learoyd scores the equaliser *Picture: Roger Neal*

Millers trampled by runaway leaders Bulls

North Leigh

HAPLESS North Leigh were swept away 4-1 by runaway league leaders Hereford as the Southern Premier League-bound side extended their lead at the top to 13 points.

The Millers were brushed aside in their first ever visit to Edgar Street on Saturday despite an encouraging performance and taking a shock early lead.

John Brough's side didn't look overawed by the substantial crowd or the occasion as centre back Matt Sysum calmly headed a corner past the keeper from close range to silence the home crowd on three minutes.

But the lead lasted a mere seven minutes before man of the match right back for Hereford, Jimmy Oates, threaded a ball through to ex-Millers and Didcot Town striker John Mills who fired beyond stand-in keeper Lewis Clayton.

Despite a fairly even first period, Hereford centre back Mark Preece bundled home a free kick from close range to give the Bulls a half time lead.

And the reformed Football League club didn't look back as they dominated the second half in front of more than 2,400 fans. Pablo Haysham, another former Didcot striker, fired in a free kick to make it 3-1 on 68 minutes.

Leigh threw caution to the wind in desperation but fell further behind right at the death when winger Tristan Plummer converted a penalty he had won.

But the Millers put an end to their six match winless run with an emphatic 5-2 win at Shortwood United on Tuesday night to lift them three places to ninth.

Leigh face another two away games as they travel to Bideford on Saturday and Bishops Cleeve on Tuesday.

Weakened Didcot let it slip

Didcot Town

ERROR-PRONE Didcot Town were unable to record back-to-back victories as they handed Barnstaple Town a 2-1 win on Saturday.

The Railwaymen pulled into north Devon on the back of their first win of 2017 but were weakened by an enforced five changes.

Goalkeeper Leigh Bedwell, player-manager Andy Ballard, Louis Joyce and the suspended James Organ didn't travel, while the injured Sam Barder was deemed only fit enough for the bench.

George Jeacock had the best chance of the first half for the visitors when he broke the offside trap but his shot was well saved by Steve Oliver.

Almost immediately, Diddy fell behind after another mistake, this time when Sam Elkins brought down Steve Holland in the area.

Striker James Blake stepped up and fired his shot past Harry Whitehead to give Barnstaple the lead shortly before half time.

It was the fourth game in a row and fifth game in the last six that Didcot have faced a spot kick.

The hosts started the second half brighter and James Mayne saw his header come off the crossbar, but it was Didcot who found the back of the net next when captain Adam Learoyd headed home from a 69th minute corner.

Barnstaple found themselves back in front with 10 ten minutes remaining when Whitehead's throw out fell into the path of Lee Francis who lobbed the stranded keeper.

It was a pivotal goal as the hosts held on, condemning Town, who host Yate Town on Saturday, to their sixth defeat in eight games.

• Wantage Town beat bottom club Bridgwater Town 1-0 on Saturday.

Steve Dyer who lost his battle with cancer last week, with son Steven

Tribute to lifelong fan Steve

A TERMINALLY ill Oxford United fan who was last week given a squad number has died.

Ardent U's supporter Steve Dyer, a fan all his life, has touched the hearts of all Oxford fans with his story.

Mr Dyer, who was given four months to live when he was diagnosed with bladder cancer in November 2015, died on Thursday evening last week.

United honoured Mr Dyer on Tuesday last week by naming him on the official team sheet until the end of the season.

And, just hours before his death, the Football League agreed for his name to be on the official Checkatrade Trophy matchday programme next month.

The club added that they were "saddened" by the news and managing director Greig Box Turnbull paid his own tribute.

He said: "It is very sad news. Steve was an inspiration to everyone because he stayed so positive and fought so hard right to the end.

"Our thoughts are with his family and friends. I had the honour of meeting Steve several times and he will be sadly missed by everyone at the club."

Last season, the 60-year-old travelled home to Oxford from his home in America so his son could see the U's at Wembley last season.

He bought two season tickets for 2016/17 and donated them to Helen & Douglas House hospice so youngsters could benefit from them.

Song ideas needed for Wembley final

OXFORD head for Wembley on Sunday April 2 for the final of the Checkatrade Trophy.

But before Michael Appleton's side take on Coventry City, the club have been set a very different challenge.

This year Wembley officials have asked for three songs from each club to be played should that side win. And that's where you, the fans, come in.

Suggestions so far have included Yellow by Coldplay, Slade's My Oh My and Cum on Feel the Noize.

After every home game, the U's play Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline. At Wembley in 1986 the club recorded Slade's My Oh My as the club song, and in 2010 I Gotta Feeling blared out after United's 3-1 Conference play-off win over York City.

This year Wembley officials have asked for three songs from each club to be played should that side win.

You can make your suggestion on the club's Facebook page at tinyurl.com/kdprkgm

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Sheffield United	38	30	78
2	Bolton Wanderers	38	26	72
3	Fleetwood Town	38	19	68
4	Bradford City	39	16	66
5	Scunthorpe United	39	20	64
6	Southend United	38	11	60
7	Millwall	37	9	60
8	Bristol Rovers	39	0	57
9	Oxford United	38	5	55
10	Rochdale	37	4	54
11	Walsall	39	-2	53
12	Peterborough United	39	0	52
13	AFC Wimbledon	38	3	51
14	Northampton Town	39	-6	49
15	Charlton Athletic	39	3	47
16	MK Dons	38	-1	47
17	Bury	39	-7	45
18	Gillingham	39	-16	45
19	Oldham Athletic	39	-12	44
20	Shrewsbury Town	38	-12	43
21	Port Vale	37	-17	41
22	Swindon Town	39	-19	36
23	Chesterfield	39	-26	33
24	Coventry City	39	-28	29

United leave it late to Iron out creases

ON loan full back Phil Edwards scored a stoppage time winner as Oxford United scraped past out of form Scunthorpe United 2-1 on Saturday.

Visiting striker Paddy Madden gave the Iron a 12th minute lead at the Kassam Stadium, but the U's fought back with skipper John Lundstram levelling on 52 minutes before Edwards deflected in the winner in the 91st minute.

Madden curled in a right-footed shot from 14 yards in a scrappy first half on a bobbly pitch.

While a full stretched Simon Eastwood was beaten, his opposite number Luke Daniels was not tested in a first half made more difficult for both teams by swirling winds.

But a spirited second half performance from the U's saw United snatch maximum points with three minutes or less remaining for the fifth League One home match this season.

Oxford levelled terms through a fine team goal seven minutes into the second half.

Curtis Nelson sprayed a raking ball out to the left where Joe Skarz pinged just as good a cross in to the box to find Lundstram, who half-volleyed the ball home against his former club for his first of the season.

Less than five minutes later and the U's skipper nearly doubled his tally for the afternoon and the season with an almost-perfectly placed curling effort that ricocheted off the bar. Daniels got up quickly to thwart Joe Rothwell's tame rebound.

Chris Maguire's free kick gives United a second goal against Bolton Wanderers

At the other end, Madden reminded the U's why the Iron, despite now only winning once in their last 10 matches, haven't been lower than fifth in the table this season as Eastwood had to beat out a drive and a header from the ever-dangerous striker.

However, the U's have been one of the league's form teams since the turn of the year and nearly snatched the win with two minutes of normal time remaining, but a superb point-blank stop from Daniels kept out Liam Sercombe's volley.

Nevertheless, Scunthorpe's defence, under severe pressure by this point, failed to hold out and, following a corner, Nelson drove a low 14-yard shot across goal for Edwards to touch home a minute into injury time for United's first win at home following three successive defeats.

Nelson, still looking for his first league goal for the club, claimed the winner but, after some post-match deliberation, Edwards, on loan from Championship Burton Albion, was awarded his fifth of the campaign.

Defender nominated for FAI Football Awards

YOUNG defender Canice Carroll missed out on the Ireland Under-17 International Player of the Year award at the 'Three' FAI International Football Awards on Sunday.

The Oxford United right back, who has made one appearance for the club, lost out to West Ham United defender Declan Rice. Jayson Molumby, of Premier League hopefuls Brighton and Hove Albion, was also nominated.

Carroll, who turned professional in August 2015 and made his United debut earlier this season, graduated through the Oxford United academy and has been capped for Ireland at under-17, under-18 and under-19 levels.

Carroll said before the ceremony on Sunday: "I'm thrilled to be nominated for this award and I'd like to thank everyone at the club, from the academy and youth team to the first team management.

"It's a great honour to be nominated."

Meanwhile, there was better news for former Yellow Callum O'Dowda, who won the Under-21 International Player of the Year.

The Kidlington man, who signed for Championship side Bristol City for an undisclosed fee believed to be around £1.25 million last summer, beat Everton midfielder Harry Charsley and West Ham's Josh Cullen to the prize.

O'Dowda took to Twitter to tweet his thanks.

He said: "Thank you everyone for your congratulations.

"I hope tonight marked one of many milestones ahead in my Ireland career.

"So grateful for everyone who has helped me in my career so far. Focus now moves to Friday! [when Ireland host Wales in World Cup qualification]".

Managing director to leave at end of season

OXFORD United managing director Greig Box Turnbull has announced he will leave the club at the end of the season.

The 42-year-old joined the board 12 months ago following chief executive Mark Ashton's departure in December 2015.

The former Daily Mirror journalist will retain his position as a trustee of the Oxford United Community Trust next season.

He will remain in his post until the end of the season to ensure a smooth transition and to assist with planning for next season, the club said on .

Chairman Darryl Eales said: "Greig has done an excellent job for the football club and I am grateful for his significant contribution.

"We have firmly established the club in League One, taking it to the next level both on and off the pitch and Greig has played a big part in this progression.

Greig Box Turnbull joined the U's a year ago

"Greig has become a good friend and I am delighted that he is staying on as a Trustee of the charity.

"We all wish him well for the future and seeing him around the club in a regular basis."

Box Turnbull, a U's fan, said it has been an "honour and a privilege" to represent the club he "loves".

He added: "Much has been achieved in many areas of the club over the past 12 months, especially building a more professional infrastructure able to cope with the progression of the club on the pitch.

"I will be leaving the club in a stronger place and in an excellent position to continue the amazing progress over the past couple of years.

"I have a great relationship with Darryl and Michael Appleton [U's boss] and wish them and all of the staff every success in the future."

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Kane Hemmings heads in Oxford's first goal after a close shave
Pictures: Steve Daniels

United outclassed in six-goal thriller

By George Welch

A DEFIANT Oxford United gave as good as they could against red-hot Bolton Wanderers in a cracking game at the Kassam on Tuesday.

The U's missed an opportunity to move within two points of the League One play-offs with this 4-2 defeat but, after a slow start, the U's fought bravely against the Trotters.

A bundled first half Kane Hemmings goal and a perfect second half Chris Maguire free kick kept Oxford in the contest but Michael Appleton's side were narrowly outclassed on the night by a team who have now scored four goals in their last three away games.

It was a nightmare start for United as Bolton took the lead in next to no time.

Simon Eastwood was forced into a fantastic low save from a Gary Madine header, but the ball fell kindly to Felipe Morias who confidently thumped the ball into the top right corner.

Everything the former Chelsea trainee touches has turned to gold since signing for Bolton in January, racking up two goals and eight assists in 10 games for the visitors.

United, who started with Marvin Johnson up front in the hope he would get in behind Bolton's back three, struggled to get going early on.

And just as United thought they had found their feet midway through the first half, Bolton doubled their lead through another rebound.

Morias – involved again – had a central free kick tipped onto the bar by Eastwood and another man in white – this time defender Mark Beevers – was first to the rebound to score on 23 minutes.

This was United's 53rd game of the season, two more than any other English side, so it wasn't surprising that Oxford struggled against a solid Bolton Wanderers looking for an immediate return to the Championship.

But there was no sign of tiredness once the U's were thrown a lifeline three minutes before the break.

Further up the pitch than expected, left back Joe Skarz connected with a Hall cross. Ben Alnwick, off his line, got finger tips to the defender's header but needed David Wheater to nod the ball onto the crossbar. But the danger wasn't cleared and Hemmings was there to bundle home his first goal in nine games.

It wasn't pretty but it was pretty effective from Hemmings, who gave United hope with his 15th of the season.

Despite the U's bossing second half possession, Phil Parkinson's side were always a threat with the impressive Eastwood thwarting Chris Long twice, first from an acute angle on 53 minutes and, a minute later, from 20 yards.

And on 60 minutes, the Trotters poked their noses further ahead in humiliating style for Oxford defender Chey Dunkley, who, from a Bolton long throw, headed the ball into the bottom corner of his own net under pressure from Madine.

The second half exploded into life with 20 minutes remaining when Johnson cracked a sensational strike from 30 yards, via a slight touch from Alnwick, against the inside of the post before bouncing clear.

There was another moment of sheer brilliance five minutes later when Maguire perfectly dispatched a free kick from the D perfectly into the top right corner to give the hosts renewed hope.

Just two minutes later and the hosts should have had a penalty when sub Conor McAleny was clipped in the box – but the Everton loanee was booked for diving by referee Ross Joyce.

Bolton dug deep as they absorbed Oxford pressure before Vela finished off United in the 94th minute.

United remain five points off the play-offs and travel to Northampton Town on Saturday before hosting Bury on Tuesday.

Midfielder in England U20 set-up

INFLUENTIAL midfielder Ryan Ledson could miss a potential play-off final if he is called up to the England Under-20s World Cup squad this summer.

The former Everton youngster, who had to tear himself away from his boyhood club in search of regular football last summer, will miss four Oxford United matches having received an England call up for a mini tournament.

Manager Paul Simpson will lead his team out against arch-rivals Argentina, hosts South Korea and Guinea for the Under-20 World Cup in May.

As a warm up, the Young Lions are to head to France for a mini-tournament.

Ledson, back in the international fold for the first time since September, will be looking to impress to secure his place on the flight to Asia this summer.

But the 19-year-old's personal success has come at a cost as he missed United's games against Scunthorpe United and Bolton Wanderers and will be absent for the clashes against Northampton Town on Saturday and Bury on Tuesday.

The Scouser, who has represented his country at Under-16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 levels, will return in time for the Checkatrade Trophy final against Coventry City on April 2 for the first of a potential double visit to Wembley this season.

But Ledson, who has scored once in 28 appearances for the U's this season, could face a club v country dilemma as England's Under-20 World Cup group matches start against Argentina on May 20 – the same day as the League One play-off final.

"We'll have to just wait and see what happens," he told the BBC this week.

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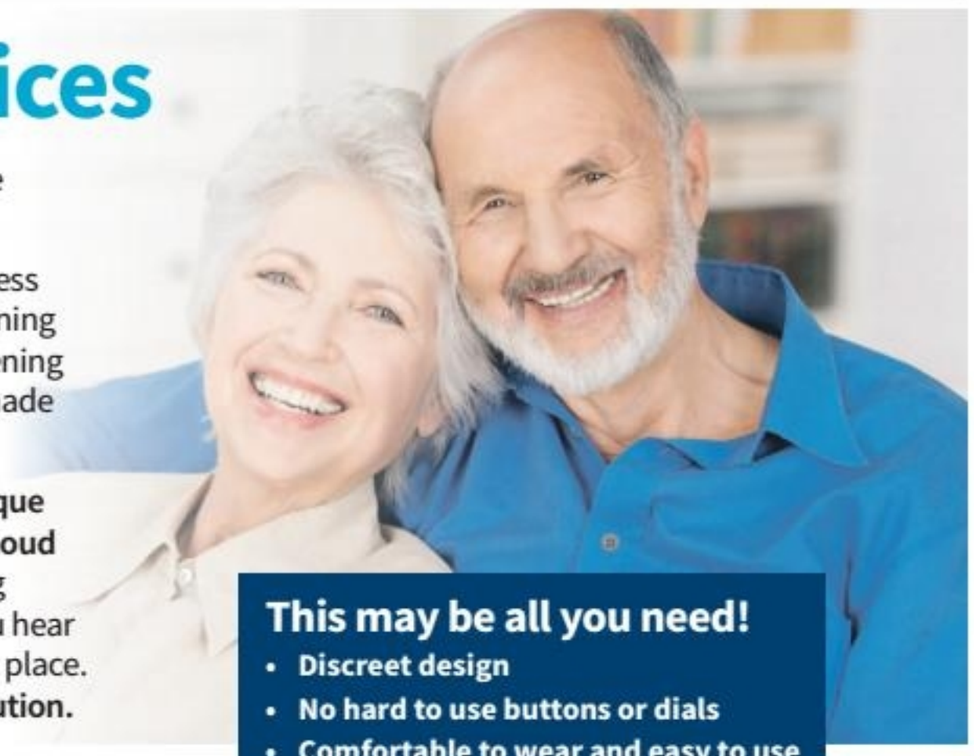

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